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CONTENTS.

| | PAGE | | PAGE | | PAGE |
|--|------|--|------|---|------|
| NOTES OF THE WEEK | 657 | MISCELLANEOUS ARTICLES (<i>continued</i>): | | CORRESPONDENCE (<i>continued</i>): | |
| LEADING ARTICLES: | | The Academy—III. Sculpture | 667 | Population and Progress. By W. F. Dobbs | 671 |
| After the Grand Attack | 660 | Van Dyck's "Tristan" | 668 | J. F. R. and the Opera House | 672 |
| Bills against Betting | 661 | Phillips and Philistinism | 669 | REVIEWS: | |
| The Great Paris Telescope | 662 | Recent Insurance Reports | 670 | History Reduced to Journalism | 672 |
| MISCELLANEOUS ARTICLES: | | CORRESPONDENCE: | | Canon Gore on the Eucharist | 673 |
| A Scheme of Army Reform—IV. Con- | | The Language Question in the Trans- | | A Benedictine House at Oxford | 674 |
| scription as applied to Great Britain. 662 | | vaal | 670 | A "Gentleman's Recreation" | 675 |
| Verse—Fontan' de' Banditi. By Arthur | | Agricultural Settlement in South Africa. | | Two Books on Bridge | 676 |
| Symons | 664 | By F. C. Constable | 671 | NOVELS | 676 |
| S. Mary the Virgin, Oxford—II. By | | Rifles and the War. By Sir S. E. | | NEW BOOKS AND REPRINTS | 677 |
| the Rev. H. L. Thompson | 664 | Scott, Bart., M.P. | 671 | SCANDINAVIAN LITERATURE | 677 |
| At Utrera. By R. B. Cunninghame | | The Science of Time. By J. B. | | | |
| Graham | 665 | Dimbleby | 671 | | |

We beg leave to state that we decline to return or to enter into correspondence as to rejected communications; and to this rule we can make no exception. Manuscripts not acknowledged within four weeks are rejected.

NOTICE.—This number contains the fourth of a series of five articles on Army Reform, which deal with the following points: (1) *The Breakdown of the Voluntary System*; (2) *Conscription*; (3) *Conscription as Applied to Great Britain*; (4) *The same continued*; (5) *The Distribution of the Home Army*.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The quality of the speeches made by Sir Henry Fowler and the few supporters of his amendment is another proof of the vacuity of all criticism which is not founded on a definite philosophy. The whole amendment could scarcely be better described than in Mr. John Redmond's angry phrase: it was a "mere dishonest platitude," of great extent, of small content, designed with the sole object of not giving offence. We cannot but admire Mr. Redmond for pulling to pieces the transparent sham nor avoid pitying Sir Henry Fowler in that he was condemned in foolish loyalty to the name of a distressful party to surrender even the unimaginative coherence of argument which is his chief claim to political eminence. He expressed approval of the money spent on the Navy; and his supporters were ominously silent. He reaffirmed, like a good patriot, his belief in the war; and lost the support of all the Irish party. In the few respects in which he came to definite criticism, as on War Office organisation and the tax on coal, he produced no new argument, made no alternative proposals, and said nothing likely to stimulate or alarm even his titular leader.

Being cut off by his sympathies from criticism of the essence of the Budget, Sir Henry Fowler spent his energies on a protest against the peace expenditure. He quoted many figures to prove the already established and much-canvassed fact, the gravity of which no one is more willing to exaggerate than the Chancellor of the Exchequer, that since 1896 the expenditure of the country, apart from the war, had increased by nearly £15,000,000. If he had gone further back he might have shown that since 1870 our expenditure had increased by more than £60,000,000. This growing taxation he attributed with perfect accuracy to three chief causes; extra naval and military expenditure, amounting to £8,000,000; the grants to local authorities, representing an increase of £2,750,000; and

an additional sum of £1,750,000 spent on education. It was open to him to join issue with Government on each of these heads. Instead he expressed almost complete approval of the attitude of the Government. He granted the full necessity of both the naval and educational expenditure, and only saved his position by carping pettishly at departmental mistakes.

The line adopted by the Opposition made defence almost needless and left the debate lifeless beyond precedent for so great an occasion. The question of the coal-tax had been worked out; of the sugar-tax, which Mr. Hanbury, forgetful perhaps of the popularity of tobacco, praised as giving a welcome chance to the working-man of bearing his part of the burden, the mover of the amendment had approved; and as to the income-tax the Opposition and the Government are unfortunately both admirers of its increase. Mr. Redmond's wholesale attack on the war and Mr. Labouchere's on the navy were not worth serious notice. Only one point of wide and vital import was brought up. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, pessimistic as Sir Henry Fowler could wish, suggested that it would soon become necessary for the Colonies to bear a larger share in the cost of Imperial defence. In the proposal is involved a more vital principle in the consolidation of the Empire than so commonplace a debate could endure, and perhaps for this reason it was not further discussed. Mr. Balfour wound up the long but futile debate with an unexpectedly vigorous fighting speech, pointing to the legacy of difficulties left the Government by Radical "bounce;" to use the language of Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman. The defeat of the amendment by a majority of 177 was not a good omen for the party which its latest leader was to renovate and reunite.

Mr. Morley was the first of the Opposition speakers to raise the debate on the Budget from its level of fatuity. He created some surprise, and, it is to be hoped, admiration by his expression of alarm at the easy method of raising money by increase of the income-tax. His straightforwardness of view and decision of argument on the meaning of Imperialism were a welcome change, in logic if not in philosophy, from the halting platitudes and awkward compromises of Sir Henry Fowler. Mr. Morley's premisses involved his conclusions. Imperialism must mean during the process of growth some increase of taxation and in the sequel must produce some form of compulsory service. It is also true that the spread of civilisation must often as in the Sudan entail war. From these effects Mr. Morley as a student shrinks. But as a student he must



allow himself to recognise the Imperial belief, which was expressed by Aristotle in a different reference, that for perfection, in a State, as in a picture, there is need of μέγεθος τι, a certain bigness. Mr. Morley would hold that Holland and Switzerland are greater than Great Britain because they have fewer wars. They are free, it is true, from the responsibilities and dangers of bigness, but the citizen of an Imperial State who looks back on the abolition of slavery and forward to the end of savagery must hold the faith that bigness will always be a necessary attribute in the definition of greatness.

Explanations were made in the House of Lords on Tuesday by Lord Lansdowne in reply to Lord Spencer which embodied all the information available relative to what Lord Lansdowne termed the Chinese entanglement. He said nothing, however, of the Imperial Decree which is reported to have been addressed to the Chinese negotiators to conclude the peace negotiations as soon as possible as famine in Shen-si makes the continued stay of the Court at Si-ngan-fu impossible: the inference drawn being that the Court is contemplating returning to Peking. And in regard to the withdrawal of the troops Lord Lansdowne is against their indefinite retention to secure the execution of all the punishments that have been demanded by the Joint Note.

The indemnity fixed at £65,000,000 still remains open to reduction and Great Britain is prepared to consider the Chinese proposals. As to the mode of payment the two objects proposed are to make it as easy as possible and to avoid separate assignments of Chinese revenues to individual Powers; and especially the giving of joint guarantees of a loan which would pledge our credit in a case where our own share of the indemnity is only about one-ninth of the whole amount. The proposal is that China should give bonds extinguishable in a term of years to each Power for its share, certain ear-marked revenues being paid to a joint Board and any measures taken for default would be taken by the concerted action of the Powers and not individually. But Great Britain will not agree to raising the Customs, as this would tell most heavily against British trade, beyond 5 per cent. ad valorem unless in consideration for a larger amount a compensating arrangement can be made by amendments in the Treaty of Commerce and Navigation and by other commercial advantages.

The Powers have come to the conclusion that a reduction of the troops may be made and orders have been given for over three thousand of our troops to leave immediately. Others will gradually be withdrawn as the season advances until only the garrisons are left for the Legation guards and the posts between Peking and the sea. The dispute with Russia over the Tien-tsin concession has not yet been settled. Lord Lansdowne had nothing more to say of Manchuria than that Russia's statement of her position and intentions there is matter of common knowledge. His reference to the two Viceroy of the Southern Provinces was a recognition of the service they had rendered by their advice and opinions during the crisis, and of their influence for good in their provinces. Their position between their own Government and the foreign Powers has been a very delicate one. Material support was offered to them at one time, but they declined the offer with the assurance that they were not incurring any personal danger, and it was not thought necessary to do anything further.

In spite of greater distractions further East, Russia appears to be quietly and persistently extending her influence in Persia. There are rumours of special concessions by the Shah in favour of Russian trade, of indirect control over Persian Customs, of the extension of the financial control already established, and we have seen a line of subsidised steamers started between Odessa and the Gulf. Russian surveyors are reported to be prospecting the eastern districts along the Perso-Baluch frontier which would be traversed by a railway connecting the Trans-Caspian system with the Indian Ocean, while Russian naturalists with a leaning for politics are exploring the same regions and ingratiating

themselves with the tribesmen. Sir T. Holdich in his recent work on the Indian Borderland has pronounced this line impracticable with a confidence which must be rather discouraging to the Russian engineers.

Count Goluchowski's most important statement about China in his speech to the Hungarian Delegation was that in which he pointed out that the peaceful progress of events in Europe—by which he meant affairs in the "weather corner" of the Balkan peninsula—had been largely due to the occurrences in the Far East. He is doubtful however whether this condition can last much longer in view of the unsatisfactory symptoms of unrest which have appeared from recent events in Bulgaria, Serbia and Montenegro. The Austro-Russian understanding is all very well but it is not desirable to place too much confidence in it for the maintenance of the status quo. Count Goluchowski's references to Bulgaria and Serbia are very distinct warnings to these States not to suppose that Austria-Hungary will leave them at liberty to pursue their ambitions without reference to her own interests. Bulgaria is reminded that the Macedonian agitation means more than danger to the relations between Bulgaria and Turkey and might exercise a fatal influence on others of more consequence to Austria-Hungary; and the new Servian Constitution is alluded to with the warning that it will not be well if it excites hopes which would be inimical to Austria-Hungary. The Count cannot be accused of want of frankness.

Telegrams from the war have been frequent during the week thanks to the adoption on the part of correspondents of "the good old rule, the simple plan" which may be called the circular or self-supporting system. It depends for the success of its continuity on the skill with which conjecture, corroboration, contradiction and reaffirmation are combined and varied. Fortunately its ingenuity is partially negated by the rarity and terseness of Lord Kitchener's summaries. A few facts emerge. Mrs. Botha is on her way to Europe, but whether with the object of ceasing to annoy her husband by her laudable importunities, or in the hope of beginning to irritate the almost forgotten Mr. Kruger is still being discussed. General Botha who had been concentrating in the Carolina district has been hunted out and Ermelo occupied not for the second or third time during this war. Some concentration of Boers has been organised in the north of Cape Colony and the telegrams add with inimitable condescension that our military authorities are aware of the fact. The whereabouts of De Wet is not known, though we are told that he has hurried to the South after failing to persuade any of his men to follow him across the Orange River. From the terminus of the railway at Pietersburg in the extreme north Colonel Wilson has made another successful expedition and engaged a portion of Beyer's commando capturing a number of prisoners and much stock.

Melbourne is passing through an exciting period in its history. The festivities connected with the visit of the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York were hardly over before the federal forces joined issue in the Parliament which the Duke went to Australia to open. Mr. G. H. Reid has lost no time in raising the question of free trade, and if boldness of assertion could win a parliamentary battle Mr. Reid is already in a fair way to secure his first triumph. Those who know him will have little difficulty in gauging the approximate value of his words, and when he claims that the elections resulted in a free-trade victory, it can only be said that he asserts what no one else has discovered. By claiming that all uncertain members are on his side he waters down the Government majority in the House of Representatives to one, and predicts an early end to the Protectionist Ministry. If by some unpropitious chance he should prove to be a good prophet, he would himself be called upon to form a Ministry. His success would be unfortunate for Australia. Whatever views New South Wales may take on the tariff question, Australia as a whole would regard any attempt to establish free trade, even of the Reidian order, as com-

mercial and financial suicide. Either Mr. Reid would have to adopt a programme indistinguishable from Mr. Barton's or there would be a crisis throughout the colonies which form the new Commonwealth.

Senator Lodge we are accustomed to in the character of Bombastes Furioso, but Vice-President Roosevelt we have usually regarded as one of the pet Americans of the people that dream dreams of the entente of "the two great Anglo-Saxon nations." Mr. Roosevelt has joined Senator Lodge in defying all Europe and Great Britain to interpose their interference between the States and the overflowing affection of the one hundred and forty millions of the nineteen South American Republics. This is a very pretty picture but it has about as little relation to the truth as the humanitarian pretences on which the war against Spain was declared. Now the Monroe doctrine triply exaggerated and the rejection of the Clayton-Bulwer treaty are the means by which South America is to be prevented from being snatched from the loving arms of the States. The "two Americas" are to declare that Europe shall not enter in establish colonies, or seek the partition of Central or Southern America. The States were bullying Venezuela a short time ago and Venezuela turned nasty. Now they will try to bully or cajole her into denying Germany the lease of a small island for a coaling station. Soon Europe will not be able to speak in South America without asking permission of the States. But we fancy South America would prefer even the attentions of Europe to those of their friends on the North. It is pleasant for Europe to be menaced with the commercial fist and the mailed fist of America at the same time!

The elections in Spain, in spite of the serious outlook and revolutionary threats of the people, have resulted in a considerable majority for the existing Ministry. It is to be hoped for the sake of the country and of King Alfonso that this success has been brought about by the sheer loyalty of the bulk of the citizens rather than by electoral strategy and the name of General Weyler, the War Minister. But the serious tumults that marked the course of the election in many of the provinces, Badajoz, Seville and Madrid, and above all at Barcelona, show the readiness of the populace for disorder, and suggest that the first vigorous revolutionary leader to appear will win a following. The most determined, if not the most noisy, opponents of the present régime are in Catalonia, where the Home Rule successes were considerable. The immediate cause of dissatisfaction is no doubt the loss of trade resulting from the surrender of Cuba and the Philippines, and there is little hope that the former modicum of prosperity will be restored in the near future. The best that can be said is that there is no sign of organisation in the revolutionary forces, and that Señor Sagasta is a politician of long experience and great acuteness.

Lord Halsbury's views have prevailed as to the form the proposed legislation known as the Corruption Bill should take. Lord Alverstone practically gives up his Bill as having no chance of getting through Parliament this Session and supports Lord Halsbury's rival Bill which gives a "prospect of something being done." The objection to the former Bills was that they were too detailed and aimed at including specifically too many things or at shutting out others so that even a tip to a railway porter might conceivably have come within it. Whether Lord Halsbury's general clause avoids this seems doubtful: but the most important alteration is the necessity for obtaining the consent of the Attorney or Solicitor-General to any prosecution. Lord Halsbury has always been very sensitive to the possibilities of the Bill being used for blackmailing and this is the device by which he hopes to minimise the danger and prevent proceedings on trivial and vexatious charges.

The London County Council decided on Tuesday to act on the report of its Technical Education Board to establish a day training college for teachers in elementary technical and secondary schools. Mr. Burns

objected on the ground that the proposal generally did not come within the Council's proper sphere of work, and as to the secondary schools in particular that the decision was premature. Other towns however such as Manchester and Nottingham have already established these colleges, influenced by the great weight of the consideration that if there is to be good teaching the teachers themselves must be well taught. The only public authority in London that has powers to establish these colleges is the County Council under the Technical Instruction Acts. But is it not somewhat doubtful to assume, as Sir Arthur Arnold did, that pupils could be received from all over the country?

Moreover another point arises. It will probably be found that recourse will have to be had to the rates in support of the college. That power may not exist at present, but if it should be sought the present denominational colleges would have good grounds for a claim to equivalent assistance, exactly on the same principle on which the Voluntary Elementary Schools are aided. But the meeting of the London School Board on Thursday showed that both parties object to the Government proposals because they will interfere with the desired education monopoly of the Board. The monopolist spirit does not stop to inquire into the proposals simply from the point of view of their bearing on education. It is a question of the transference of powers and an endeavour will be made to secure the assistance of the larger boroughs in resisting the creation of the new secondary authority. If that fails the opposition will turn on the alleged differences between London and any other part of the country.

It appears that the first impression as to the objects of the trust of £2,000,000 constituted by Mr. Carnegie for the benefit of the Scottish Universities was to some extent wrong. The scheme is not yet settled and Mr. Carnegie has explained that it is not intended to establish free education in the Universities. What he says suggests that he is contemplating the more general interests of higher education, perhaps the endowment of research and the better equipment of the faculties. Mere payment of fees would not meet the difficulties of poor students and though no doubt Mr. Carnegie is intending something for their benefit, it would be a misfortune if this portion of the scheme were to cripple the resources which might be used with greater advantage to general university education. An endowment for this purpose would be of the utmost benefit to the University of Cambridge and we hope Mr. Carnegie's gift may "encourage the others."

On this matter of the insufficient appreciation of the value of apparently remote and abstract studies Mr. Balfour spoke at the Polyclinic dinner very earnestly and almost severely. We lack imagination for what lies outside everyday affairs, says Mr. Balfour, and hence we have not equipped ourselves as Germany, France, Switzerland and Italy have done with the costly armoury which research must have in these modern days. It needs some courage, as well as a wider mental vision than most politicians possess, to assert that in these cherished studies we have the foundation of the knowledge which shall give far greater happiness than any immediate material industrial advancement can do. The Philistines will probably at some time or other misrepresent on some party platform Mr. Balfour's statement that if our country allows itself to be passed in this race, it would be a greater national calamity than a lost market here or some national contretemps there. What if they do? The champion of knowledge for its own sake has his own reward, a reward that falls to the lot of few "Anglo-Saxons," and hardly any politicians.

The exploration of the Speedwell Cavern in Derbyshire is of exceptional interest to naturalists, since it has resulted in the discovery of the first example of a blind cave animal recorded in England. The cavern was discovered many years ago by lead-miners, who broke in upon it at the end of a 700-yards level shaft. Above the tunnel even the search-light has failed to reveal the extent of roof; but downwards the cave is

now found to be paved with a deep pool about eighty feet below the level of the entrance hole. The Lipura found in the cave is allied to the Lipura Wrightii which was discovered by Messrs. Jameson and Martel in the Mitchelstown cave in Ireland. The only other forms of life discovered were small crustaceans, not eyeless, and flat worms, with a few beetles and gnats evidently not inhabitants but stragglers through the tunnel of access.

The ill-luck, if it is not ill-management, which has attended the English challengers for the New York cup, fell in full measure on the new "Shamrock II." In a sudden squall off the Isle of Wight she carried away her bowsprit, her topmast and mainmast going in turn. It was fortunate that no one on board was struck by a flying stay or sheet, but in similar disasters in the past personal injury has been rare, the reason being that on a yacht close-hauled all on board are to windward of the falling gear. The truth is that the King was never in serious danger. The suggested date of the race for the cup will have to be postponed in consequence of the breakage, and there will be much disappointment. It cannot, however, be said that our prospects of regaining the cup are good. On one occasion Sir Thomas Lipton's new yacht showed herself better than the old, but there is no sign of her super-excellence and the voyage across the Atlantic and the terms of the race are always against the challenger. To share the popular enthusiasm over the race is not quite easy. In spite of its international savour there remains the anomaly that a private citizen is engaged, under considerable handicap, in competing with an almost national club. The contest will never assume a really international character until the Royal Yacht Squadron issue the challenge.

The abolition of the Mastership of the Royal Buckhounds has involved a complication which was hardly considered at the time of the change. The Master of the Buckhounds has always had the control and management of Ascot. He took the receipts, was responsible for repairs, founded or added to stakes, and above all was the grand dispenser of orders for the Royal enclosure—that last ambition of all our social aspirants, who have fought or bought their way in so successfully of late that with the expansion of society the enclosure has expanded into a bear-garden. The Mastership of the Buckhounds now being defunct, who is to look after Ascot? Lord Churchill is taking charge temporarily; while a committee has been appointed to consider the whole matter, consisting of Lord Churchill, Lord Ribblesdale, Lord Esher and Lord Marcus Beresford. There are likely to be many changes, while one is certain. The enclosure will be contracted so as to include fewer, and, we suppose, proportionately more distinguished members.

The Stock Exchange has been in a restless and uncertain mood all the week, and prices, except in such markets as Home Rails where stagnation prevails, have moved fractionally up and down. The Northern Pacific complication is still unsettled, though the Committee of the Stock Exchange has now fixed 10 June as the buying-in day against bears of this stock. This intimation that the moratorium would not be indefinitely prolonged has sent Northern Pacific Commons up to the famine price of 204, and has depressed other stocks. About Thursday there was quite a hardening up of Yankee rails, especially in Eries, Readings, Norfolks, and Wabash, but on Friday they were all down again, and it is impossible to predict the immediate future of this market. The railways are there and doing as well as ever, and probably by the middle of June, when dividends begin to be announced, there will be a recovery. The Kaffir market has relapsed into a state of dull despondency as the war drags on. Much will depend as Mr. Brodrick said on what advice Sir Alfred Milner may give the Government. The Westralian market is still exercised about the Rossland and Kootenay market, though Lake Views are steady in the neighbourhood of 10, while West Africans are weak in face of the holidays followed immediately by the settlement. Consols closed at 94.

AFTER THE GRAND ATTACK.

SIR HENRY FOWLER is one of those men of whom everyone speaks well, barring a few political friends. At a distance this seems to indicate a very rosy lot, but on closer inspection such a reputation takes a soberer hue. It is noticed that such men are always described in positive terms of minor praise, and soon we see that the real object is not to insist on the smaller excellences the gentleman possesses but to suggest the greater qualities he lacks. Uniformly to speak of a man as moderate, sensible, sane, honest is a kindly way of saying he is not brilliant. Sir Henry Fowler, the Opposition's "honestissimus et iustissimus homo," did not endanger his reputation for all the minor qualities by his speech on his own amendment on Monday last. Indeed, almost everyone, especially his opponents, was able to praise the speech and did. Only for the Irish members was the strain of keeping up the euphemistic pose too great. Mr. John Redmond could stand its irritation no more and unkindly blurted out the other side of the compliments which others had been paying poor Sir Henry. Truly never man spoke in a saner, safer way by saying nothing that was remarkable or memorable for anything. We all know that platitudes win great reputation for wisdom, and Sir Henry kept this experience well before him. He demurred to the magnitude of the national expenditure—common form: he insisted on the fact that this expenditure was increasing—common form again: he urged the necessity of economy—commonest form of all. All this was quite irreproachable, and Sir Henry was careful not to mar his blameless speech by making any suggestion as to where retrenchment could be effected, nor could he make any better proposals for taxation than those of Sir Michael Hicks-Beach; indeed he was with the Government on all points except the coal-tax: again—for his party—common form; a perfunctory party statement of objection and no more. Just once this great Liberal statesman almost left the path of platitude by producing a specimen so old and obsolete that its falsity trenched upon its very title to be a platitude at all. "Our frontier is the sea"! and that from a former Secretary of State for India! We trust Sir Henry Fowler will never go to the Education Board, or we should tremble for our elementary school-children's geography. He might be introducing maps of the British Empire drawn to square with his own notion of frontiers. His party would have to be in power for a long term of years before Sir Henry Fowler's geographical primers would be up to date. We almost lose patience in company with Mr. Redmond and feel inclined to describe this speech in terms of the spade. The real truth is that Sir Henry was in substantial agreement with the Government on nearly all points, but being in the Opposition had to oppose. This was the great effort of the Opposition's most respectable man, who was put forward to conduct the last charge. Sir William Harcourt's dash and brilliancy was relied upon for the first assault and Sir Henry Fowler's heavy weight was brought up for the last with the result that they never got within range of the Government; and so ended the grand attack. Mr. Morley's speech was no part of this assault; in so far as it was directed to the Budget, he was against that which the Opposition approved and approved of that which they were against.

To us it is a genuine mystery why the Opposition should have chosen their ground of attack so badly. It was never possible to make any real impression on this Budget from their point of assault. The coal-tax, whatever its intrinsic merits or demerits, necessarily could never be generally unpopular; the sugar-tax plainly was not unpopular. It would have been very much easier to make an impression on the increase of the income-tax; and a formal protest against the deliberate and careful neglect of an opportunity to benefit our West Indian colonies in the matter of the sugar-tax would, in our belief, have offered a very fair chance of putting the Government in a very tight place. The significance of the Budget with the debates and public opinion it has evoked is that the country is aware that there will have to be more indirect taxation in the future. The whole trend of modern conditions is in favour

of the organisation by the State of more and more departments of national life, industrial, social, and commercial. The nationalisation of the coal supply has, as it were at a bound, been brought by the action of the coal-owners almost within the region of practical politics. Organisation means money, and money cannot be got by starving the army and navy—the country will stand that no longer—and practical people know that there is a limit to what you can do with the income-tax. Therefore indirect taxation must come. We shall in the immediate future see steady pressure in favour of obtaining revenue by import duties, which so far as they are paid by the foreign producer will relieve the taxpayer here, so far as they fall on the home consumer will be to the advantage of the home trade. It is because the Budget shows some appreciation of these changes in the fiscal position that its mediocrity has not made it unpopular.

Their unique good fortune still seems to attend this Ministry. They do not need to play any game of their own; the Opposition play it for them. Just when the country is getting a bit weary, a little restive at a good many things in the Government's general attitude, the Opposition kindly come forward and by an obvious mistake in the game immediately put the Unionists "all on side." The one thing necessary for the Government's health was something to fight about, something which would make the country think they were energetic and were defending themselves in earnest. We have no doubt whatever that the coal-tax onslaught has very really improved the Government's position in the country, which, as it appeared to us, was previously to the introduction of the Budget visibly changing for the worse. We trust the Government will make the best use of their good fortune: knowing that even their luck must turn some day. Certainly the Whitsuntide recess finds them in no bad case. Their main items of business—the army and finance—are well in hand. In army reform, as in finance, if they are not doing by any means all that one could desire, they are certainly doing something and they are showing a right spirit. The South African settlement they have not had to tackle and for reasons unfortunate indeed but not chargeable to any fault of theirs they may not have to tackle it this session. In Chinese affairs—where their position has been weakest and where confidence in them will yet be a very slow growth—the Government, on Lord Lansdowne's recent statements of policy and situation, stand better than they have since the incidents of Port Arthur and Ta-lien-wan. In fact they now show some sense of the gravity of the problem and of the magnitude of the English interests it involves. The greatest danger to the Ministry lies in the direction of education. On that score they have not discharged their obligations, and if they show any weakness and whittle down the very tentative Bill they have introduced or discover any indolence in getting it passed in its entirety this session—if they do not even add to it—it might mean their shipwreck; a fate they would absolutely deserve. The friends of education are few but they are determined, and such of them as are on the Government side would put their convictions before the life of the Ministry if it came to any question of the Education Bill not passing this year.

BILLS AGAINST BETTING.

THE Bishop of Hereford's motion in the House of Lords for a Committee to inquire into public betting is, we are afraid, a somewhat hopeless proceeding—hopeless in the nature of things, and also because of the small chance, the Government taking no active part in the matter, of a committee being got together that will carry any weight. As an inquiry for the purpose of strengthening the public feeling that already exists against betting it is unnecessary, for no one disputes the facts that are regarded as evils by thoughtful people. If its object is to inquire what legislative measures are possible and expedient for checking the admitted abuses, we think it very probable, on an examination of the legislation in existence, that very little more can be done by Act of Parliament than has been done in the last half-century. Let us take the Bishop of

London's points. Selling tips, as the Bishop says, is not illegal, and if it were made illegal it would cover far more cases than "crowds at street corners on Sunday mornings." It would include a great number of all sorts of newspapers, not only those directly appealing to sporting readers but the ordinary newspaper whose main cause of existence is not sport. We do not see how in the present state of public opinion the view of Lord Salisbury can be controverted, that no Act will stop newspapers from giving information upon a matter of such widespread interest as racing. What the proprietors of those newspapers, and other persons pecuniarily involved with them might object to, would be as nothing compared with the objection of the vast numbers of people who would resent any interference with the supply of a species of news they want to have; they would not tolerate Government editing of their newspapers. To ask them to submit to this is to assume that they take a far more serious view of betting than they actually do. As to the second instance given by the Bishop of London that the law should be altered so as to hit the betting man who makes bets in the streets, that may be well for the order of the streets but will have little effect on the volume of betting. It would only divert it into the already existing betting offices or add a few more to their number. Bye-laws can and have been made, and we do not see any advantage in a law which would be largely administered in localities not caring enough to make a bye-law.

Then the Bishop suggests higher fines than the present one of £5. It would be possible no doubt to fix the fines so high that they would swallow even the "enormous profits of the trade:" but as we have just pointed out there is the alternative of carrying on the business in offices. And this after all is the one bulwark of the betting fraternity. They have resisted the attack which sought by making enclosures "places" to stop betting on racecourses. Betting-house legislation has not been wholly unsuccessful, but the assault on betting became too serious for popular opinion when headquarters were threatened by a new extension of the words of an Act of Parliament. That was going too far because to prevent betting was not desired; and it would have been as impossible to get a new law from Parliament as it was to get a decision from the Law Courts extending the meaning of a place so as to include the racecourse "betting ring."

There remains, then, one untried legislative means: to make it illegal to carry on a betting agency office. That curiously enough was not suggested by anyone in the House of Lords debate. Yet if it were practicable, we mean if such a proposal had any chance of being passed, it would be a root and branch reform as far as the greater and the humbler mass of persons who bet are concerned. There has been a case where an effort was made to destroy the agency business by endeavouring to persuade the Courts into holding that sending telegrams and letters containing orders and instructions to bet to such offices was "resorting" to them for the purpose of betting; but that view was rejected. Would Parliament pass a law to do directly what it was not possible to do indirectly by the Courts' decision? Perhaps the Select Committee might advise it; more likely it would "split in two and vote in precisely the opposite way." But no Government, Conservative or Radical, we think is likely to adopt the view which should urge action to this extent. It might be effective enough; perhaps in much the same way as legislation against lotteries has been effective. But then the difficulty is to get this particular kind of legislation passed, and it would be as hopeless to propose it as it would be to propose an absolute prohibition of betting on racecourses. If it were once passed there is the example of the lotteries to suggest a possible success, but it was much easier to control lottery operations which were usually on a large scale than the very numerous small places in which a betting agency can be carried on. They would become less reputable even than they are at present after being driven underground. In the same way we should have certain newspapers which on their collapse, when they were prevented from publishing the odds, would disappear to the considerable advantage of the public in most respects; but secret

and even more objectionable publications would take their place.

We have no intention of deprecating legislation as if we thought the evils of betting as an organised system were not sufficiently grave to warrant Parliamentary interference. But while admitting them it is well to take a reasonable view of the instinct and habit of betting, and ask how far we would go if Parliamentary action could be made effective. Is betting such a vice in itself that not only may we denounce it as immoral but treat it as a crime if that will restrain it? It is impossible to hold that any stake on chances is immoral. There is an argument that can be used very much like that directed against taking interest on money lent, but the refinement is not one that can be accepted in a society so many of whose transactions involve every day a calculation of chances on which turns the question of profit or loss. Apart from the consequences of betting beyond personal means, which every sensible man must decide as he decides other matters of expenditure, what makes the custom particularly irritating is that it is a symptom of intellectual crudity when a man allows it to absorb so much of thought as betting does in many cases. Morally the evil comes in when this absorption leads to neglect of duty, or develops into greed for obtaining money without rendering useful service for it; this is the danger to a low type of intellect. In itself speculation on chances is quite a human proclivity, and we are not sure but that in its usual form the tendency to speculate is connected with that curiosity as to the mystery and chances of life which is certainly a step beyond the mere incuriosity of animals. The calculation of chances and probabilities is in some of its higher forms one of the severest of mental exercises: and there is a humble and rough similarity to this in the commoner forms of gaming or backing an opinion. Why additional fascination should be imported by the staking of a small sum of money—and that in most cases is sufficient—is puzzling. We can hardly believe that this mere fact turns an innocent speculation into a sin, but it is evident that the real danger begins here. Yet high play is not so common in the upper classes as it used to be. Horse-racing is now the principal form of gambling where large sums change hands. That has developed an extravagant craze for betting which is to a great extent an imitation by the humbler of the higher classes. The case of betting has certain features in common with that of drinking; though it never sinks to the brutality of mere sensualism. Both are regulated by law and there is a desire for further regulation which seems more hopeful for drinking than for betting. But it is not rational to aim at eradicating the use as an abuse in either case. The limits of proper use are moral and intellectual, and to help in forming a defining public opinion is a duty cast especially on the aristocracy.

THE GREAT PARIS TELESCOPE.

"WHAT is the great Paris telescope doing?" is a question that must soon be answered, if the instrument is to justify its existence. Its promoters had in view a higher purpose than to provide a gazing-stock for the visitor to the Exhibition; they were without doubt genuinely anxious that their enterprise should add to the equipment of science an instrument of extreme value. And yet there have been no indications of any attempt to use the telescope seriously for serious astronomical work. It has produced some photographs of the moon, which were published not long ago in a magazine, and they are probably the worst examples of lunar photography that have ever seen the light, immeasurably inferior to De la Rue's great photograph made forty years ago, and not to be compared with the work which dozens of smaller instruments could produce to-day. Yet in all seriousness M. Deloncle brings them forward as examples of the work of his instrument, and speaks of the poor things as "epoch-marking photographs."

Now to publish these photographs at all, still more to seem to be contented with them, argues such a lack of scientific judgment in M. Deloncle as to warrant the

inquiry, How did this great instrument come to be built, and what hope is there that it will be of real service to astronomy? To the first question the promoter of the scheme has himself supplied the answer. He spent an evening, he says, at the Paris Observatory and watched M. Loewy at work on his beautiful photographic atlas of the moon. "If you had an instrument more powerful you could obtain even better results?" "Undoubtedly." In an instant, he tells us, his resolution was formed. He would build a larger telescope than had ever been made before. "As I anticipated, the project at once captured the popular imagination, and 'La lune à un mètre' became in a day one of those catchwords that fly round the world as fast as the electric telegraph can take them."

It is difficult, in the face of this curiously unscientific confession, to absolve M. Deloncle from responsibility for the nonsense with which the sensational press forthwith overflowed. The moon was to be brought within an apparent distance of a few mètres: Mars was to be projected on a screen to form an image nine mètres in diameter: the nebulae were in like manner to be exhibited in a theatre to many hundreds at one time. The project was manifestly absurd. Is it possible with an object-glass of 50 inches aperture to form on a screen an image of Mars 30 feet in diameter? The question was put to two distinguished authorities. Undoubtedly, said one, but the image would be too faint to be visible; the same screen exposed to the direct light of Mars, without the intervention of the telescope, would be illuminated fifty times more brightly. Certainly it is possible, replied the other, and it is equally possible to spread an acre of bread with one pat of butter.

In truth, when M. Deloncle proposed to build for himself a telescope of 50 inches aperture, 10 inches larger than the largest existing refractor, he seems to have had a vastly exaggerated notion of the extra light-gathering power which that increase would give him. It was not long before the more glaring fallacies in his scheme were pointed out, but such warnings were swept aside in the wave of newspaper enthusiasm which the catchword generated. The prospect of "La lune à un mètre" fired the imagination, and a syndicate was promoted to find the money and build the telescope.

Who it was that planned the instrument in the form in which it was constructed does not appear. It is a fixed horizontal telescope, fed with light by a heliostat mirror; and it is important to note that, in the opinion of a great builder of telescopes, this will be the form of the large telescopes of the future. The first very large instrument fashioned in this manner is built, and stands waiting to be tried. It can certainly never realise the exaggerated anticipations of its owners, but it might in a suitable climate, and properly handled, be of immense value. It would be a matter of the highest interest to test it seriously against the best work of other instruments. But its builders seem to have no conception of any standard of excellence. Within a stone's throw of the observatory which is publishing a lunar atlas of marvellous perfection they produce a few grotesquely inferior results and shout "I have won the day."

So long as the new telescope is run on these lines it will be doing no good at all, and will have wasted a vast amount of money and skilled labour to no better purpose than to provide a nine-minutes' wonder for the newspapers. M. Deloncle and his syndicate aspired to render a great service to science. The greater is the pity that they should seem so little to recognise the true tests of scientific progress that they are content to start with a journalistic flutter and achieve a magazine celebrity.

A SCHEME OF ARMY REFORM.

IV.—CONSCRIPTION AS APPLIED TO GREAT BRITAIN.

(Continued.)

CONSCRIPTION would only be resorted to so far as voluntary service failed to fill the ranks. It is to be hoped that the cavalry, artillery, engineers, and most of the departmental corps would still mainly be manned by professional soldiers; and on them we should also rely for foreign service except in case of actual war. It might of course have been possible to

form separate units for conscripts and for voluntary soldiers: but the advantage is in favour of mixed units. The battalions serving at home could as now send out drafts to the battalions serving abroad: and as the battalions serving at home would outnumber those serving abroad, no difficulty need be encountered in thoroughly carrying out the linked-battalion system. At the start a certain number of trained soldiers would be distributed among the new units, and the balance would in all cases be made up by conscripts. To make the army more of a real profession than it is at present, it would be advisable to increase the length of period of voluntary service to twelve years with the colours and seven in the reserve with a pension at the end; and to good-conduct men the option of extending to twenty one years might be given. The pay would naturally be higher than that prevailing among the conscribed levies; and all suitable places in the post and other public offices should be reserved for long-service soldiers.

It is impossible to arrive at an exact estimate of the proportion of the population which would annually be conscribed. No calculation of the number of those who every year attain the age of twenty has yet been made. But we shall not be far wrong in assuming that about 500,000 men in the United Kingdom reach the age of twenty every year. It is also impossible to fix the actual number of conscripts that would be required; since no one can tell how conscription would affect voluntary enlistment. The new system would work somewhat in this way; commanders of units would send in towards the end of each year, say by October, a return of the number of conscripts they would probably require for the ensuing twelve months. The total number might usually be placed at about 80,000, which would not be a very severe strain on the nation. The regimental districts would be assessed according to population, the number of men required for service being annually chosen by ballot. The parochial clergy and the keepers of registry offices would be required to render yearly returns of the births of males, which would to some extent be a check on statements as to age. Service would commence on 1 January, and would terminate at the end of June in the following year, an advantageous time for obtaining civil employment. From a military point of view it would be more convenient if the period of training could commence in April, as two complete summers would then be available; but the disadvantages of throwing a number of conscripts upon the country at the beginning of winter, when employment is difficult to obtain, are too serious to ignore. Before the yearly ballot, boards consisting both of combatant and of medical officers would make mustering tours throughout each regimental district, when it would be the duty of the local authorities to produce to the boards all those who would reach the age of twenty during the ensuing year. Those unfit to serve would at once be rejected, and those temporarily so or too small would be put back for the next season. Ample powers would be delegated to the boards to consider those who claimed exemption on private grounds, either deciding then and there, or postponing cases to the following year. If not taken in the following year, they would immediately be relegated to the civil reserve. The military powers would have no hand in the ballot, which would be taken entirely by the civil authorities. This might mitigate to some extent the unpopularity of the measure. Mayors or other civil officials would be provided with the numbers their districts were required to produce, and with a list of those who had passed the mustering board. As we have said, conscripts would not be required to serve abroad, but there should still be, as there has always been, a number of those who would wish to do so and make of soldiering a regular profession. In the event of a big war, when, say, two army corps were likely to be required, conscripts could be sent to serve anywhere, or kept on with the colours for an indefinite period. In the ordinary course of things, however, they would merely join their home units; and when a battalion proceeded abroad it would transfer its conscripts to the returning battalion preferably of the same, but sometimes of some other regiment. There should as hitherto

be no difficulty as to the supply of professional soldiers demanded by regiments serving abroad; and, in order to lessen the likelihood of conscripts being required for foreign service, the advisability of keeping, say, six battalions up to their war strength of long-service soldiers ready to go abroad on an emergency, and so increasing the peace strength of some battalions and reducing that of others, might be seriously considered.

The practical effect of this scheme on the Militia would be to transform a number of Militia units into line battalions, and this idea should be carried out as far as possible. It would be much cheaper and more convenient than creating entirely new battalions; and it would disturb but little the existing system whilst the various changes were taking place. The country would not have to provide such large grants for starting regimental messes and institutions, and the permanent staff of the Militia would be ready at hand to carry on the work in the new line regiments. As for the officers, a portion, did they wish it, might be permitted to retain their commissions in the converted battalions; but they would have to be recommended as competent in every way, and would have to submit themselves to practical and theoretical examinations, so as to ensure that they possessed the requisite technical knowledge. Colonels and majors would, in addition to examinations, be appointed entirely by selection, and all would have to fulfil certain limits of age.

In addition to the field army, of which we have hitherto been speaking, a number of troops would be required for the defence of London and for other garrison duties; and, in case of war, for the lines of communication. For these purposes the 1st and 2nd army reserves would in time be available, and these, mainly under reserve officers, would be organised into units in their regimental districts. Those serving in each of the army reserves would be liable in peace-time to be called out for, say, three short periods of training, and in case of national danger it should be possible to call them up at once without further ado. For other duties, principally of a non-combatant nature, we should have the civil reserve also to fall back upon. These arrangements could not come into effect till some six years after the Act had passed; so that during the interval we should have to maintain a certain proportion of the Volunteer forces. The Government might be empowered to buy at a fair price such existing properties of Volunteer corps, for instance ranges and drill halls, as it might be desirable to acquire.

An eighteen months' period of service has the advantage of enabling the conscript to serve during a part of two summers, and thus to perform two courses of trained soldier's musketry—as well as a recruit's course—and two courses of field training. For the infantry this period would certainly be ample; and though for the cavalry and artillery it would be somewhat short, it would probably be found sufficient if men were really available, and not "employed." In any case a similar period for all would be much fairer than the German plan of making cavalymen and horse-artillerymen serve for three years with the colours and four in the reserve, as against the two years and five years of the other conscripts. Matters would be much simplified by all conscripts joining at the same time, 1 January being the date. It would be advisable to keep the recruit's training of conscripts and long-service soldiers distinct and separate in every way, as the former would naturally have to work at much higher pressure than the latter, and ill feeling between them might arise in consequence. Conscripts however might serve at the depôts for six months after joining. During this time they would perform gymnastic and recruit's musketry courses, and practically complete their recruit's tour of barrack square drill. They would therefore be able to take their place in the ranks on joining the regiment on 1 July; and the numbers would consequently not overlap, since the recruits who joined the previous year would have been relegated to the reserve on 30 June. Some slight latitude in this respect, however, might be given, in order to prevent undue stress at either end. It follows that our military establishment would be larger during the first than the last six months of the year. This system

would have the great advantage of enabling at any rate the infantry conscript to be in his own district for the first six months of his service. Indeed during that period they might in many cases be permitted to sleep out of barracks and make their own arrangements as regards meals, &c., did they wish to do so. This should be perfectly feasible in most garrison towns in the United Kingdom, and it should do much towards alleviating the hardships of compulsory service. On the other hand the long-service recruits who joined between January and July would be sent at once to the home battalions; but those who joined between August and January would be kept at the depôt during that time. Thus we should be able to keep the classes separate during their recruit's training and prevent overcrowding at either the depôt or the regiment. It might be an advantage to voluntary recruiting, moreover, for people to see and contrast the necessary difference between the two trainings. The work at the depôts would be of a most important nature and far greater care should be exercised in selecting the staff than is taken at present. The duties of the mustering officers would be especially onerous; for on them would largely depend the proper working of the conscript system. As there would be no militia and no volunteers, the command of the depôt might with advantage be held by a major—who would rank as a second in command—while two regimental districts, instead of one as at present, might be placed under the command of a single colonel; and on him would rest the final responsibility for the recruiting and reserve organisation. Recruiting for the infantry would be conducted, as far as possible, on the territorial plan, though one district would occasionally have to send recruits to another, so as to make the system work fairly throughout the country.

Long-service recruits would not be counted as trained soldiers until they had attained the age of twenty, and conscripts not until they left the depôts. In this way we should possess a home army of men instead of boys. The training of reservists would as a rule be carried out during the last half of the year, when the depôts would be more empty and accommodation available. For the Guards, cavalry, artillery and other services, recruiting would be general throughout the kingdom. It would, as already pointed out, be impossible with us to carry out the territorial system in its entirety, for units could not be quartered permanently in their districts. Recruiting responsibility, which abroad rests on brigadiers, would thus rest on combined depôt commanders.

FONTAN' DE' BANDITI.

*From the Roman of Augusto Sindici.**

THERE is no fountain there, but through the soil

A little pool comes up refreshingly,
With clear, cool waters, and they seem to boil
Along their little ways, seeking the sea.

The sward around is soft and mossy green;
There in the wood the woodcock loves to fly,
Coming at eventide to suck between
The moist earth when the moon is in the sky.

And then the waters lose themselves, and make
A little chattering fall beside the trunk
Of a lopped alder-tree, and then are dumb
In a still pond; and there the cattle slake
Their thirst, and each one turns, when it has drunk,
A slow head, beckoning the next to come.

ARTHUR SYMONS.

* Cavaliere Augusto Sindici, an Italian poet who writes in the Roman dialect, is now in England; he lectured to the Dante Society on Thursday, reciting some of the sonnets which compose his "Leggenda della Campagna Romana," from which I have translated this sonnet.

S. MARY THE VIRGIN, OXFORD.

II.

THE intimate connexion between the University of Oxford and S. Mary's Church has invested the buildings with associations which distinguish it from all parochial churches in England. Many royal names occur in its annals; many famous historic events have been transacted within its precincts.

The existing nave was built in Henry VII.'s reign, from a design of Sir Reginald Bray's, the funds being largely the result of a piteous appeal from the University to all the great personages of the kingdom. The parsimonious King, who visited Oxford in 1488, granted timber from his forest of Shotover instead of a gift of money. But he did more for the church at a later date. Soon after the death of his Queen, he assigned ten pounds for ever to the University, for the provision of a religious service to be performed every year for the good estate of the King himself during his life, and for the benefit of the souls of his Queen and their children, and of the King's father and ancestors. Henry died within five years of the creation of this endowment, and provided that after his death the anniversary should be observed on the day of his funeral, and prayers said for his soul. In obedience therefore to the royal injunction, the University set up each year, in the nave of the church, before the crucifix which then stood on the rood screen, a hearse or catafalque "covered and apparelled with the best and most honourable stuff to the said University belonging for the same." Four tapers of wax, each weighing twelve pounds, were to be set about the structure, to be lighted and burnt continually during the services, which consisted of a requiem mass and special prayers. The pall which covered the hearse is still preserved among the University treasures, and each year, on Act Sunday, is displayed in S. Mary's. It is of Venetian workmanship, a rich and costly fabric of gold thread and crimson velvet, decorated with the royal arms and badges.

Not however for many years could the ceremony have been maintained. For in Edward VI.'s reign Oxford experienced the full violence of the Puritan Reformation, with all its drastic changes. Peter Martyr, who had come to England on Cranmer's invitation in 1547, became Regius Professor of Divinity, and affixed to the door of S. Mary's his challenge to the Catholic party; and in 1549 preached from the University pulpit before the newly appointed commissioners. Then under Mary were enacted in the church the wonderful scenes connected with the trial and condemnation of Cranmer, Ridley, and Latimer, scenes which have left their mark on the fabric of the building, as upon the history of the world. At the base of one of the pillars of the nave, just eastward of the Vice-Chancellor's throne, may be noticed a mutilation of the mouldings, some portion having been cut away, so as to afford a resting-place for one of the beams of a platform; and in the chancel, along the whole range of the oaken stalls on either side, the finials of the bench-ends have been curtailed, the upper portion of each trefoil being removed, so as to enable timbers to be laid securely upon them. Both these mutilations are connected by tradition with the scenes in which the archbishop and his two suffragans played their tragic part; the chancel was fitted up with staging to accommodate the audience at the hearing of their case; in the nave Cranmer was placed on the day of his death.

The three prelates had been brought as prisoners to Oxford, nominally to dispute on theological questions, but really to be condemned for heresy. On 13 April, 1554, they were conducted separately to the chancel of S. Mary's, to meet the commissioners who had been appointed to discuss with them the doctrines which they were charged with having impugned. The disputation itself took place in the divinity school a few days later; and again on April 20 they were brought to S. Mary's. On this occasion they all three came in together, and probably it was their last meeting on earth. Recantation of their errors was demanded of them, and on their refusal they were delivered over to the secular arm, to be burnt as heretics.

But unexpected difficulties caused delay in carrying out the sentence. For eighteen months longer the

three prelates remained in custody, and after Cardinal Pole's arrival in England and the degrading reconciliation with Rome, a second trial took place at S. Mary's, in September 1555, before Brookes, Bishop of Gloucester, the papal commissioner, and two doctors (Martin and Storey) representing the King and Queen. Cranmer entered the chancel first, guarded with "bills and glieves for fear he should start away." He uncovered his head and made a low reverence to the two doctors; then he replaced his cap, looked steadily at Brookes, and explained that he could make no reverence to him, or he must admit the authority of the Bishop of Rome in England. He then knelt down, turning his back to the high altar, where the Pyx was displayed, and said the Lord's Prayer; the prayer ended, he rose up, and, after reciting the Creed, entered a formal protest against the jurisdiction of the Bishop of Rome. After Cranmer had withdrawn, Ridley and Latimer were brought in, and for a second time condemned; and on 16 October they were burnt in Canditch, opposite Balliol College. Cranmer's case was referred to Rome, and he went back to prison. The incidents which immediately followed do not concern S. Mary's; but the Queen had determined on his death, and on 21 March, 1556, he was once more brought to the church. A mean platform had been hastily erected opposite the pulpit, where the mouldings of the pillar have been cut away, and Cranmer was placed on this stage, which raised him above the surging crowd that filled the church. The friars who attended him chanted the *Nunc dimittis* as he entered, and he knew that his death was near. Dr. Cole, provost of Eton, who had been specially sent down by Mary, definitely announced his fate from the pulpit, and at the close of his sermon appealed to Cranmer to make a public avowal of those recantations of his errors which he had repeatedly signed. The exact spot can be identified where Cranmer knelt weeping and wrestling in prayer against the pillar of the nave; and then stood up and stretching out his right hand spoke the memorable words, "for as much as my hand offended in writing contrary to my heart, my hand therefore shall first be punished; for if I may come to the fire it shall be first burnt." Noise and execrations followed these unexpected words. He was hurried away to Canditch, and fastened to the stake by an iron band which may still be seen in the Ashmolean Museum. Then when the fire was lighted he held out his hand firmly over the flames, crying "O this offending right hand!" and though at intervals he moved it to wipe his face, again it was seen outstretched till he was released by death from his great suffering.

In Elizabeth's reign more than one notable incident took place in S. Mary's Church. Poor Amy Robsart died or was murdered at Cumnor, three miles away; and her body was brought, after the inquest, to Gloucester Hall, and on 2 September, 1560, was buried with much ceremony at S. Mary's. Dudley himself was not present; but his chaplain Dr. Babyngton, the vice-Chancellor, preached the funeral sermon, and either by design or accident spoke of the poor lady "so pitifully murdered," instead of "so pitifully slain." The place of her burial was in the chancel, somewhere near the east end. A modern stone records the fact, but the exact spot cannot be ascertained.

Queen Elizabeth twice entered S. Mary's. On both occasions, according to constant custom, the church was fitted up with staging, so as to fit it for an academic ceremony. On her first visit, in 1566, Leicester as Chancellor stood by her side, and she exchanged smiling asides with him. Perhaps he once or twice thought of his young wife, whose body lay close by. There were endless disputations, which the Queen greatly enjoyed, and she herself addressed the University in Latin. Then came the Stuart times, and two visits from James I. Laud's chancellorship left its mark on the church, as elsewhere in Oxford. The south porch, with its twisted columns, was the gift of his chaplain, Morgan Owen, and one of the charges brought against him at his impeachment was that he had allowed the placing of "a very scandalous statue of the Virgin Mary with Christ in her arms set up in the front of the new church porch of S. Mary's next the street, to which Mr. Nixon deposeth he saw

one bow and another pray." Perhaps to Laud is due the still existing custom of spreading the white "housel" cloths round the desks in the chancel at Holy Communion, and the administration of the elements to the people kneeling in their places.

In the turmoil of the Civil War S. Mary's fared badly. Its chancel was used as a burial-place for the royalist soldiers; and many stones may still be seen marked with initials, and the date 1643 or 1644. The older monuments were used for this purpose. Under the Puritans came the removal and demolition of the stained glass, and of the figures which adorned the niches. Then with the Restoration there was a renovation of the chancel, which brought it almost into its present condition. Dr. Bathurst, President of Trinity and vice-Chancellor, carried out the alterations; the present panelling was placed round the sanctuary; exquisitely beautiful carved railings guarded the Holy Table; and the black and white marble pavement was laid down. Since that now distant period the associations of the church have been less and less connected with the secular life of the University; but in the Sunday sermons preached during each term has been maintained a close and unbroken union with it; and it boasts of the unique distinction of having had John Henry Newman among its vicars, and being the place where he has preached as no one else has preached.

Much more might be written about the events which link S. Mary's to the annals of Oxford and the wider life of England, and to justify its claim to rank very high among the historic churches of our country.

H. L. THOMPSON.

AT UTRERA.

"DO you think," says Gonzalo Silvestre, in the "Florida" of Garcilaso de la Vega to a starving comrade who was complaining of his hunger, "that in this desert we shall find delicacies (*manjares*), or Utrera cakes?"

This little sentence in the enchanting history of the old half Inca prince, half Spanish gentleman, has always made Utrera, for me, an entity. True that I have often seen the place, often waited wearily at it for the compulsory forty minutes for breakfast, in the heat and dust. But I knew it only as an unnecessary junction outside Seville, a station amongst others, between *Las dos Hermanas* and *El Arrahal*, until I read that line. Most towns we pass upon a journey have no real being for us. Even if we stopped at them, they would perhaps have as little to distinguish them from their immediate neighbours as have the majority of the educated voters of the world. But let a writer, such as Garcilaso, mention them, but cursorily, and they become as it were alive, and have a real existence of their own, ten times as real as the existence which their streets, their churches, dust-heaps, prosperity, and all the want of circumstance of their municipality, seem to impart. So much more vital is the pen of genius than is the simulacrum of vitality, which is called actual life. Not that in southern towns there does not still exist a real life, far more intense than that which northerners enjoy. For after all, a railway, schoolboard, rise in the world, athletic sports, in which professionals contend for gate money, cricket and polo, gin, beer and fun, with snobbism and cads, a "smart set," interest in the welfare of mankind, nice taste in literature, with strainings at the circulating library for the first reading of "Red Porridge" and the like, do not exactly constitute a life. All that makes life worth suffering, that is to them unknown. Or if perhaps not quite unknown (for every animal, northern and southern, man, wolf and bull, feel in a measure hatred and love), still so beset with property, convention and so be-fig-leaved, as to be relegated from the first place they should enjoy, to that of waiters on prosperity, for in the lands where County Councils rule, no one has time for either love or hate till his position is assured, and he begins to feel the ache between the shoulder blades. But in the countries of the sun a man's best property is after all his life, his power of love and hate, enjoyment of the sun, and therefore he becomes a child in things which we think all important,

and a profound philosopher in those other things, as, hate, love, well-filled idleness, and indifference to care, to which no one of us attains.

And so it seems to me that the introduction of our northern life, our railways, steamboats, cotton mills, and class distinctions, comes but as a curse to those whose lives nature intended to progress upon other paths.

The ugly iron roofed shed, proud in its hideousness of being able by its mere presence to make a landscape common, which though perhaps not lovely in itself still had a certain grandeur in its brown, dusty vastness, the hurrying crowd of idle folk, rushing to nowhere in particular to do no settled business, because the company afforded cheap communication, the stolid faces of the engine-drivers, the porters, indolent, but still alive to tips; in fact the utter uselessness of the whole thing in a land designed by God for bullock waggons, set me a-thinking upon Silvestre and his "Utrera Cake." Except in dress the people could but have little changed since he sailed from San Lucar for the Indies in some high-pooed ship.

But he too fell away, back to the pages of the Inca writer, where his exploits live for the few who care to read of when the world was relatively young, and the divine deformity of modern life, peaceful and futile, absorbing and yet wearisome by its subjection of the whole to an infinity of detail, surged up before me in its clamorous outcry to be accepted at the appraisalment it sets upon itself.

The lazy crowd of olive-coloured, undersized, but well-knit men, in tightly-fitting trousers, low-crowned, broad-brimmed hats, each with his cigarette alight or burnt out in his lips as it had been part of his system at his birth, strolled gravely up and down, looking the women as they passed full in the face, and being in their turn severely scrutinised by their black unflinching eyes. The heterogeneous mass of bundles, the corded, hairy, cowskin trunks, and cotton umbrellas, which form the bulk of luggage at a southern railway station, lay on the platform blistering in the sun. The electric bell twittered and chattered like a grasshopper, whilst the grave station-master, arrayed in white, strolled up and down, absorbed in the full emptiness of mind which gives an air of seriousness to southern folk. In the refreshment-room the waiters lounged round the table bearing stews red with saffron, pilaffs of rice, salads and fruit, smoking the while, and exchanging their ideas on politics and things in general with the company they served. The company itself, seated without a vestige of class separation, talked as unconstrainedly as they had all been intimate with one another from their youth. The gentlemen all had an air of having been at one time bull-fighters, or at least "intelligents" (inteligentes), and the stray bull-fighters looked like gentlemen who pursued their calling from the love of sport. The ladies, dressed in the extreme of Paris fashions, still looked like "chulas" in disguise; the "chulas" gave you the impression that were they painted with more art, and dressed in Paris, they could straight pose as ladies, and be successful in their part. Not that the ladies were not ladies, or that the "chulas" aped their ways, or envied their position, but yet, the type was so alike in each, that outwardly all the distinction was in dress. Both of them heard without resenting compliments of the most violent kind, accepted them at their true value, and recognised, perhaps by instinct and without reasoning, but clearly all the same, that the first duty that their sex owed to itself was to be women, thus conquering without an effort the respect which it has taken northern women centuries of struggle to achieve.

Outside the station donkeys and mules and horses nodded their heads, tied to a bar between two posts by esparto ropes, their woollen-covered saddles, striped red and purple, looking almost Oriental against the background of the sand. Men slept in corners close to their horses, mere brown bundles, their olive riding sticks stuck down between their naked backs and ragged shirts, and standing up stiffly, or projecting out fantastically beyond their heads in the intense abandonment of life, which seemed to come upon them in their sun-steeped sleep.

Over the whole incongruous meeting of the powerful

semi-Oriental life with the cheap breath of the new-fangled and progressive world as typified in the cheaply run up station and the Belgian engine snorting on the track, the sun shone down, fiery and merciless, exposing all the shams of life, and making men more simple in their villainy and their nobility than it is possible to be in the dim regions of electric light.

Trains came and went, the passengers scaling their steps from the level of the line, after the fashion of a soldier mounting the deadly imminent breach, the men ascending first, and holding out their hands to the women, who were shoved behind by any passing stranger, and dumped like bales of goods upon the carriage floor. The water-sellers, with their Andujar pottery water-coolers, called out their merchandise so gutturally that their cry seemed Arabic, and the sellers of fruit and toasted ground-nuts, crawled along the platform seemingly quite unconcerned about a sale. Boys climbed the windows, and whined for halfpence, turning their blessings into curses if they were refused. All the bright, lazy, virile elements of southern Spanish life passed swaying on their hips, and looking fixedly with unblinking eyes, whilst in the middle of the line a tame white pigeon walked about picking up grains of corn, and diving in and out between the carriage wheels, to the terror of the countrywomen, who after their custom attached a sort of sanctity to it, because it was so white.

Strange that the qualities which endear both animals or men to us are all inherent and impossible to be acquired. No study, education, striving, nor a whole life of wishing, will give beauty or a sweet disposition. A pigeon born of another colour, by a whole century of self-sacrifice cannot attain to whiteness, so perhaps those who see sanctity in that tint are right, for anything that is attainable by work is of its very nature common, and open to us all. So underneath the wheels, and on the line, playing at hide and seek with death, the holy whiteling hopped, occasionally picking an insect from its feathers with its coral beak, as naturally as if it had been black, slate-coloured, or a mere speckled ordinary bird. Trains came and went clanging and rattling, and the passengers proceeded on their way packed in the sweltering carriages, contented, almost as patient in their endurance of the miseries of transit, as they had all of them been born without the vaunted power of reasoning, which takes away from man the placid dignity which animals possess.

Men rolled their cigarettes between their fingers browned with tobacco juice, and women fanned themselves, using their fans, as they had come into the world with a small fan stuck in their baby hands, ready for future use. All talked incessantly, and as they talked, and smoked, and fanned, the tame white pigeon wove its way in and out amongst the wheels. All the bright comedy of southern life displayed itself, cheap, careless, philosophic, and intent to enjoy the world it lives in; heedless of pain, of suffering, of life itself; trembling at the idea of death when spoken of, and yet prepared to meet it stoically at its real approach. Simple, yet subtle in trivialities, convinced that none but they themselves had grace, wit, beauty, or intelligence, and yet not greatly self-exalted by the fee simple of the only qualities which make man lovable, but taking all as their own due, the people accepted everything that was, and looked upon the trains, the station, the electric bells, the telegraph, and the grave Catalonian engine-drivers perspiring in the sun upon their engines, with lumps of cotton waste in their strong dirty hands, as things sent into the glad world by Providence on their behalf. An attitude which after all may be as good as that of northerners who, thinking that all the planets turn round their own particular place of abode, yet consider that they themselves in some mysterious way are half accountable for every revolution that they make, and if they stopped but for a moment in their efforts, or withdrew a tittle of their countenance, that the whole solar system would crumble on their heads.

Seated upon the platform drinking coffee, and thinking listlessly on things, the "chicas," the coming bull fight, if the Madrid express would ever come, and if Silvestre if he came to life would find much difference, beyond the railway, in Utrera, I saw the local train

start with a puffing, jangling of couplings, banging of doors, and belching forth of smoke. The two grave gendarmes got into their van, belated passengers worked themselves by the footboard to their seats, and in a cloud of dust engine and carriages bumped off upon their way. Clinkers and straws were wafted in my face, the multitudinous last words floated in the still air, and on the line lay something which at first sight appeared a newspaper, but that it seemed alive and here and there was flecked with red; it flapped a little feebly, turned over once or twice, and then lay motionless upon the six-foot way.

R. B. CUNNINGHAME GRAHAM.

THE ACADEMY.—III.

SCULPTURE.

THE pressure of sculpture on a jury in England is not so great that overcrowding and jumbling of kinds and sizes are necessary. The sculpture court at the Salon is a desperate and wearisome place because of vast numbers and still more the perpetual jumping of scale; the mind has to readjust its sense of size and itself make an isolation for each piece, and this preliminary is as irritating as it would be to cut out every paragraph in a newspaper, and use a fresh pair of spectacles to read it. It is just to the arrangers of the sculpture rooms at the Academy to say that they dispose their material so as to make its inspection as little harassing as possible. Mr. Ford's figure of the Queen is too big for the central hall, but the lecture room is arranged with a good deal of thought; centres and corners are occupied by comparable groups; reliefs balance one another on the walls, busts and smaller pieces fall into groups between the big things. The festoons of drapery employed to help out this balanced scheme are unlucky in colour, telling as a dirty green against the walls; but in this matter of distribution the sculptors are very far ahead of the painters with their elementary joinery of frames.

The scantiness of sculpture good or indifferent that makes such careful scheming possible ought also to insure that all good work offered to the jury shall find a place in the exhibition. Its members cannot plead, like the painters, fatigue and oversight and want of space. I am under no illusion about the condition of the art; there is certainly not a crowd of neglected talent; but I can vouch for cases of rejection that it would be impossible for the jury to justify on a comparison with the work they admit. These rejections, in so circumscribed an area of choice, must be quite deliberate: what is their motive, since it is not artistic? The case of a rejected sculptor is much harder than that of a painter, since he has not a dozen alternative places of exhibition.

Mr. Armstead's "Remorse" seemed to me the most evidently sculptural thing in the collection. It seemed to have come into being not by humouring and managing but by an act of sculptor's imagination. Here is a block whose different silhouettes and bounding surfaces arrest and content the eye, and contain, like the snapping together of a wonderful puzzle, a human figure, significantly occupied. The turnings of the block are gestures of the body; body and block are engaged in an intrigue to make one another interesting. I do not say that Mr. Armstead's invention is of the first order or is carried through with the magical felicity that in first-rate sculpture flowers out all details into corollaries of the main proposition; but his figure looks as if it had been born in its block.

Above this hangs Mr. Sargent's "Crucifix." This does not give the impression of having sprung into full being, idea and pattern together, but rather as a fine idea and a symmetrical pattern that have had to fight for sculptural beauty against unforeseen difficulties. Moreover it is the work of a man learning the art over this particular thing, so that there are inequalities in the system of reliefs. Yet it is the work of a more remarkable intelligence than the majority of those engaged regularly in the sculptor's métier, and at one or two living points it beats, in expressiveness, anything exhibited by the sculptors. The head of

Adam reveals in its maker a sense of the range of burdened emotion expressible in sculpture, and of the noble manner of that expression in the work of many a Gothic artist, of Donatello, of Michael Angelo. Of such facts, elementary as they may appear, one is seldom reminded by exhibitions of sculpture. The American is freer of the arts than the Englishman, has an easier circuit of dilettantism, less prejudice because he is less rooted, is more of a mistletoe, hung pale in the air, so that one is inclined to discount an American's art, like a tourist's admirations. When Mr. Sargent plunged into the Boston decorations, of which this is a part, I had an uncomfortable feeling that there was more of the able dilettante in what was shown than of the designer stricken by a tremendous subject. But this head with its spirit-in-prison aspect and rude modelling tastes to me of creation. It will be interesting to see whether the feeling for sculptural solid form will grow in Mr. Sargent's painting as against a tendency to fluff and flash of tone. Some day he ought to take up the hints of Astarte he has given and paint a terrific figure.

Two large commissioned monuments are successful to a remarkable degree; Mr. Thornycroft's "Dean Colet" for S. Paul's School, and Mr. Goscombe John's late Duke of Devonshire for Eastbourne. There is not only scholastic dignity and gentleness in Mr. Thornycroft's Dean but three separate figures of master and scholars are skilfully grouped so as to be neither too separate nor unnaturally joined. Mr. Goscombe John's Duke has a fine characteristic head, well-contrived and coherent action, and a chancellor's robe wrought out with evident pleasure. I enumerate these excellences in the monument as they strike me, to convey a certain criticism as well as praise. This monument seems to me well on the way to being a very fine work of art, but a last step is missing, if we can call that transcending and quickening a step—that lifting of all excellences to a higher power by a fusing act of design, in which the man, his clothes and the block intensify and transform one another. It is wonderful that the thing should be so well done when we see the manner in which our sculptors work. They get few opportunities of executing big monuments, and their ordinary occupation, bust-making, they do not seem to consider sculpture at all. There is hardly a portrait bust in the present exhibition into whose making a sculptural idea has entered. Mr. Hampton's "Sir Henry Howorth" is exceptional in this respect. Even the better men often treat those portraits as if they were bored by the commission and could find nothing to interest them in their subject. The defect leaps out when the bigger monument comes at last. The magnified bust, seen at a greater distance, reveals in how petty a spirit of piecemeal imitation it has been designed; little accidents spring into prominence; the sense of large enclosing planes and big directing lines has become atrophied, and the monument is modelled like a collection of little likenesses of its parts. One of these parts in particular, the drapery, is apt to absorb the sculptor in its imitation, especially if its surface is richly decorated. His object should be to decorate not his drapery, but his monument; to see that his drapery is throughout playing the game either of gesture or of architecture, helping to make the man or the block. Rodin's "Balzac" was a fiery demonstration of how clothes and man can be welded into one significant block; something of the power of seeing the two together is the foundation of great work in draped sculpture.

On one side of sculpture there is some show of curiosity, that is in its materials and their qualities. There are attempts to combine precious stones with bronze or work out schemes in ivory, mother-of-pearl and so forth. One ought not, I suppose, to condemn tinkering at the cart because no horse is in sight, but whatever ingenuity and craft may be found in these experiments there is terribly little sculpture. Mr. Frampton's figure of Edward VI. is a pretty toy, but this can hardly be said of the rest of the arts and crafts pieces. There is one little bust, "Pepinella," that shows a sculptor really getting preciousness out of his material. Mr. Havard Thomas is one of the few Englishmen who work in marble and love it,

adapting his modelling to bringing out the antique beauty of its polished surface instead of gritty sugar-loaf effects. How much better to perfect the use of one material thus, than to make raw combinations of several.

The prospects of the coinage are not bright; Mr. de Saulles shows his hand in a case of very indifferent medals. Mr. Fuchs, to whom the new stamp design has been entrusted, is evidently a more skilful modeller, but his ideas of medal-designing are of a pretty, elusive sort. Edward VII. has an admirable head for a medal, treated with the frankness of art. How long is women's taste to be the official brand?

I ought to add that Mr. Swan's fine "Puma," shown in a previous exhibition, is now to be seen in bronze.

D. S. M.

VAN DYCK'S "TRISTAN."

LAST Saturday night's performance of "Tristan" was, on the whole, the very finest I remember. Mr. van Dyck was the Tristan, Mrs. Frankel Klaus the Isolde, Mr. Bispham the Kurwenal, Miss Marie Brema the Brangaene and Mr. Blass King Marke. With these I shall deal presently; but first something must be said of the orchestra. Earlier in the week Mr. Lohse did not vastly impress me; he struck me indeed as rather commonplace, as dull and more than a little obtuse. After "Tristan" I want to apologise to him for even thinking so, and also to kick myself viciously for being so bad a critic as not at once to perceive his surprising merits. His reading is very different from Muck's or Mottl's or any other reading I have heard; but in its way it is as fine as any of them. The prelude did not start at all happily: in fact Mr. Lohse struck me as being like a nervous singer who cannot hold a long note because his voice may crack at any moment. He clipped the long notes and hurried the short ones: he even cut the rests between the opening phrases, those prolonged rests which help to produce the feeling of suspense and tremendous impending tragedy. To the very end (of the prelude) he kept me uneasy; everything was unbalanced and a suspicion of raggedness was not absent; there was neither poise nor polish; one felt so unhappy lest at any point the whole thing should go to pieces that it was impossible to receive the passion with which all the beautiful music is charged. But at that last descending passage, full of mystery and foreboding, which accompanies the rising of the curtain on the stupendous drama—here Mr. Lohse recovered himself. From then until the last chords of the last act his playing was admirable; it was full of emotion, it had colour of a distinctive sort; it was, even in the merest accompaniments, quite individual without Mr. Lohse ever allowing himself to stand between the drama, or the players in the drama, and us, the audience. The preludes to the second and third acts were perfect; that to the third has never been better given. On some later occasion I shall analyse Mr. Lohse more carefully and at greater length; to-day Mr. Van Dyck is my main business; but I must now congratulate Covent Garden on having made one first-rate find.

Before coming to Van Dyck a few words must be said about Mrs. Klaus and Mr. Bispham. Mrs. Klaus is a new-comer—from Prague I believe. To me, seated in my disagreeable stall in the front row, her face and physique seemed not at all adapted to the part of Isolde. In the early part of the evening she made me very angry by her sheer lack of dignity. After all Isolde is a queen, and at the beginning a proud, vindictive queen, smarting under a sense of unforgivable wrong and insult. Every gesture should be imperious as well as passionate, every tone should be full of scorn and bitterness. Mrs. Klaus' movements were weak; often she tripped about the stage like a schoolgirl; and always she was too scurried. Her tones were too mellifluous, her phrasing lacked the element of mere strength—in a word she failed to solve the old problem of combining beauty with just expression. At the same time if I cannot have the two together I infinitely prefer the Klaus beauty and weakness to the rough, uncouth, raucous expressiveness of the favourite Bayreuth form of prima donna. The second and third

acts suited her much better than the first. In truth I have never heard some of the phrases in the last act delivered with such poignancy. Probably within a week or two I will discover that Mrs. Klaus is the greatest Isolde of the century; but for the present I leave her with the simple remark that she is an artist, and a fine one. As for Mr. Bispham, I can only say that his Kurwenal is as splendid as ever; he is indeed the only Kurwenal in Europe. There may be a finer one in the United States—I would wager any sum that in the United States there are many gentlemen who consider themselves finer Kurwenals than Mr. Bispham—but all the same Mr. Bispham remains the born and only exponent of the part. His two great opportunities occur in the first and last acts, and Mr. Bispham made the most of them both. He was sufficiently acrid, vicious, in his attack on Isolde in the first act, and in the last act he was infinitely touching. A couple of years ago Mr. Bispham tried over-polishing his parts, and the results were disastrous. Now he has given up all that kind of foolishness and our gain is great. Last Saturday he was the faithful warrior servant, affectionate at bottom, as a dog is affectionate, and caring for nothing on earth save his master; and he pulled off what one is bound to call in an inevitable contradiction in terms a brilliant representation. Kurwenal is not a brilliant part: it is a heavy father part; but when one recollects how magnificent Bispham is in it, how powerful and how tender, and when one recollects the average German baritone and his treatment of the part, there seems only one word to apply to Bispham's interpretation, and that word is brilliant.

And now for Mr. van Dyck. Others had their triumphs last week, but van Dyck's was the greatest triumph of them all. For some years now Mr. van Dyck has substituted a system of coughing and barking for true singing; and, more curious still, he has often defended his method against learned people who told him he was wrong. The New York critics, Mr. Henderson in particular, have foamed at the mouth about him and his theories. They have told him that he was not, never was in the past, and never would be in the future, a fine singer. Now he has turned the tables on them (and on me) by accepting all they said, and by singing—really and truly singing—instead of barking and coughing. I remarked on this fact last week when dealing with "Tannhäuser;" but in "Tristan" the results of his change of method were very much more obvious. A couple of years ago (20 May, 1899) I declared Jean de Reszke's "Tristan" to be the finest possible or conceivable. That opinion I wish naturally to stick to, yet at the same time I must confess that van Dyck's is quite as fine. When I hear the one I cannot believe that any other was ever so great in the part; when I think of the two quietly I admit to myself that they are equal in their different ways, and that excepting them there are no Tristans in the world. To be sure I have seen other Tristans; but after van Dyck and Jean they all fade away into the common mass of tenor performances—into the confused mass of commonplace, Saleza-like tenor performances that no one save the esteemed critic of the "Pall Mall Gazette" would dream of calling distinguished. In the first act van Dyck was wonderful; in the second act he was just as wonderful; but in the last act he fairly astonished even persons like myself who had often before been astonished by Jean. Of Jean's marvellous colouring of the voice there was no trace: van Dyck now sings, but he will never sing in the Jean manner. What we got was the least theatrical version of Tristan conceivable, a representation of the man that enabled one to forget that it was a representation, a representation so supremely artful that one never so much as thought how natural it was. Consider, for example, his entrance in the first act, and, though comparisons have been alleged to be odious, let us compare it with Jean's. There is a tremendous passage for the orchestra and then Tristan is supposed to come in. I have seen him slink in, crawl in, get in by many dodges, but always looking poor, small, undignified, after the astounding music. Jean comes in with dignity; but I have always felt that he knew the difficulty of the

moment and was facing it heroically. He was always a little theatrical at this point, and I forgave him, thinking no other treatment of the episode possible. Van Dyck has taught me a lesson, however. He marched in quite calmly, and it was not until he started the altercation with Isolda that I perceived that he had achieved an astonishing feat—he had come in with no loss of dignity and yet with no touch of theatricalism. Those of my readers who have studied, or paid any attention to, the operatic singer's art will understand how much this means. If space permitted, I could give a score of instances of van Dyck's consummate art. But it is sufficient to mention this, and his handling of the last act. Here, again, he was finer than Jean. He seemed to be not van Dyck singing Tristan, he seemed to be Tristan, sick, delirious, and looking out vacantly on the world through wide-open, fatuous eyes, through eyes that reported nothing to the mad, whirling brain behind them. There were no displays of wounds and blood. He got exactly the atmosphere that Wagner evidently wanted when he wrote that sad, trailing cor anglais melody—the melody that has hung round the world ever since world-weariness came in, hung round the world in the sound of buzzing flies at mid-day and all the strange sounds that drift drearily to one's ears in the country at midnight in summer, but a melody that Wagner was the first to catch and set down. Van Dyck played up to that melody in a way that was astounding—so astounding that one scarcely realised until the show was over how great the task was. If I should die to-night I ought to die happy, for I have heard the two greatest Tristans there have been or can possibly be, Jean de Reszke and van Dyck. No one can say who is the finer. I am thankful that we have them both.

J. F. R.

PHILLIPS AND PHILISTINISM.

POOR Mr. Stephen Phillips, heavy with resentment and alarm, has been unbosoming himself in one of those "Real Conversations recorded by William Archer" for the "Pall Mall Magazine." The distress of a poet is necessarily a tragic affair; but, when it is recorded thus, the purgation of us through pity and awe is so drastic that we shall not soon be able to feel sorry or afraid about anything else. The large and marmoreal severity of the manner in which Mr. Archer really converses—a manner fallen straight into by whomever he really converses with—is an ideal medium for the transmission of tragic emotion. Month by month I have been reading these immortal dialogues with cumulative rapture, with cumulative homage to Mr. Archer. That in ordinary circumstances Mrs. Craigie and Mr. Hardy, Mr. Pinero and Mr. Phillips all talk like books, I have very good reason to doubt. That they all talk like the same book, is obviously impossible. And yet, mark you! when they come within Mr. Archer's sphere of influence, there is not a pin to choose between them: one after another leaps heavily upon the pillion of the high wooden horse whose saddle Mr. Archer, with open note-book, is uprightly bestriding. The solemnity of them! The length, the solid construction, of the sentences that mount from their lips! The aptness of their quotations from the Hundred Best Books! The little coy amenities that sparkle up now and then, and do but illuminate by their giggling contrast the awful impressiveness of the whole! The perfect temper on either side—"Ah! there you have the very gist of my complaint," "There you are at the root of the matter," "Ah yes, that is of enormous importance," "Granted with all my heart." What overwhelms us in these dialogues is not so much what is said as the way in which it is said. It is the manner, rather than the matter, that makes admiration compulsory. We feel that if Dr. Johnson had chronicled for us, reverently, with all the classicism of his prose-style, the conversations of Boswell with Mrs. Thrale and other estimable creatures, the result might have been approximate—not quite equal, indeed, but approximate—to these monthly treats which Mr. Archer provides for us. It is true that in certain English versions of Ibsen's plays we find the characters talking somewhat as do Mr.

Archer and his interlocutors. But there is not in all literature another possible analogue. We feel that Landor's "imaginary" effects are, in comparison with Mr. Archer's "real" effects, flimsy. The elastic graces of Plato seem positively vulgar. And as for the dialogues of real life—we are ashamed of ourselves. There would be an ugly rush to La Trappe, but for the hope that flutters faintly in every breast, the little pale hope that faintly whispers "Some day, some distant day, the eye of Mr. Archer may fall on me, and by the dry light of its incomparable majesty enable me, even me also, to talk as nice as him!"

'Twas in "the Smoking Room of the — Club" that Mr. Archer opened his note-book and drew Mr. Phillips nobly out. I do not seek to penetrate the mystery of the "—" (Enough that it is evidently a club unhampered by the usual rule against transaction of business by members within its precincts.) But I like to think of the scene as it was enacted—the two men face to face: "Herod's" author, profoundly agitated, gripping tightly the arms of his arm-chair, Mr. Archer sitting on the extreme edge of another arm-chair, plying his pencil to record the words that flow from the poet's lips, and constantly interrupting the stream with words of his own, which he takes down, not less faithfully than he takes down the poet's, even as they are being uttered. A "real conversation" in the making! What a beacon in the mirk of current history! You may be sure that the beacon is espied by the other occupants of the Smoking Room. They are watching it discreetly from behind their newspapers. They cannot overhear the conversation, for it is conducted in hoarse whispers, but they can see the interplay of the light that flashes now from the poet's, now from the critic's, handsome eyes, and the flush and pallor that alternately o'erspread the well-modelled cheeks of each. Would that we, too, had been privileged to observe these phenomena! We can but imagine them, and insert in our copies of the "Pall Mall Magazine" the stage-directions which Mr. Archer meanly omits. "Mr. PHILLIPS. Yes, yes; 'Herod' was very well treated on the whole, and I have no reason to complain of the acceptance it has met with." Here, instinctively, we add "*(removes right hand from breast of buttoned frock-coat and waves it gracefully on level with shoulder)*." Again, "W. A. Complain, indeed! Why it was a triumph," &c. Between "indeed!" and "why" we insert "*(throws up both hands, dropping pencil and note-book, which he stoops quickly to recover. Then, more soberly,)*." These passages occur in the earlier part of the interview, before Messrs. Archer and Phillips have worked themselves up to a full sense of solemnity—before they have got their long wind, as it were. It is Mr. Phillips who first strikes the deeper note: "Tell me, Archer, is there no hope of awakening the editors of newspapers to the monstrous injustice and absurdity of the way in which they treat the drama? I said I had no reason to complain of the reception of 'Herod,' but I withdraw the remark. Of one paper I had reason to complain, and do and shall complain . . . because of the manifest unreason involved in its policy, and the deadening effect it must necessarily have on all imaginative effort. You know, of course, the paper I mean—" "When," said W. A., "hostility to the higher drama is in question, there can be no doubt what paper you have in mind. I hope it accorded you the honour of its contumely." One would have thought that W. A.'s tone here was grave enough for anyone. It wasn't, though, for Master Stephen. "It is all very well," said he (*frowning*), "to treat the thing lightly, but it is a serious matter for the future of the drama." And W. A., that fribble, sat corrected, while the poet proceeded to formulate his indignation against the critic of the "Daily Telegraph." If "Herod" had been ruined commercially by this critic, Mr. Phillips' grievance might have been perceptible. But, as he repeatedly demonstrates, no such disaster happened. The play was a great success. The "Daily Telegraph" did no harm. Then why give that paper a belated advertisement? "Because of the manifest unreason involved in its policy." But Mr. Phillips is a poet, not a newspaper proprietor. I suspect that Sir Edward Lawson knows better than

Mr. Phillips what kind of a critic is right for the "Daily Telegraph." The critic engaged by him does not, assuredly, write like a clever man, or like a well-educated man, still less like a man of refinement. But if he cannot corrupt the public, why make a fuss about him? "If," says Mr. Archer, "you succeed in realising your ideal, if you go on producing vital drama, never fear but that the British genius will accommodate itself to the accomplished fact." Exactly. And the critic of the "Daily Telegraph," seeing which way the wind blows, will probably accommodate himself also. In any case, let Mr. Phillips stick to the business of dramatic poetry—to his own business, and not bother his head whether his plays be unanimously praised or not. If one bad notice in one widely circulated newspaper is enough to deaden "imaginative effort" in him, his imaginative talent must have very shallow roots. But he moans that he is not moaning for himself merely: he "can't help thinking of the other and bigger men that will come after. Just consider the disastrous effect such criticism might have on a man of much finer talent than mine—disastrous in proportion to the delicacy of his talent." Let Mr. Phillips be soothed. The finer the talent, the less likely is it to be snuffed out by obloquy, and, on Mr. Phillips' own showing, the amount of obloquy which greets good work in modern times is happily negligible in proportion to the amount of praise. If anything, it is the praise which is the dangerous factor for the modern artist. But the finer the talent, the less likely is it to be killed by kindness. Because Mr. Phillips' talent strikes me as remarkably fine, I am sure that he will not be undone by the eulogies which we have (almost) all poured over him. For the same reason, I am sure that he will not wither away because one or two dolts don't give him his due. In fact, I have no fear at all for his future. But he has, I think, somewhat marred his present by this tirade in the "Pall Mall Magazine." To buffet the air—even when one does so under the auspices of Mr. Archer, and in the Smoking Room of the Club—is always undignified and absurd. MAX.

RECENT INSURANCE REPORTS.

THE London and Lancashire Life Assurance Company has many features which are attractive to certain classes of policy-holders. It deals in very happy fashion with naval and military risks, and offers distinct advantages to policy-holders in India and other places in the East. So far as assurers in this country are concerned the participating policies give exceptionally good results to people who effect their policies at the younger ages; but policy-holders who enter in later life scarcely fare so well. The company was founded in 1862, and the statistics ever since its formation are readily available. They show that the position of the office is better now than at any previous period in its history, and that if the present rate of bonus is maintained participating policy-holders will receive better results than ever before. This would have been the case even if the original arrangement, by which with-profit policies received 80 per cent. of the surplus, had continued; but it has been arranged that all participating policies effected since 1897 shall share in the profits to the extent of 90 per cent. of the surplus, and this improves the bonus prospects of recent and future entrants.

The new business of the Company last year was slightly less than the average of recent years, but this is a common characteristic of insurance reports for 1900, and is probably an advantage rather than otherwise to existing policy-holders. A noticeable feature of the Company's report is the decrease in expenditure; the premium income has gone up, and the amount paid for commission and expenses has gone down; while the percentage of premiums absorbed in expenses is $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. less than it was in 1899, and $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. less than in 1896. There is still room for improvement in this respect, but attention is being paid to the point in very successful fashion.

The funds increased during the year by over £116,000, and now exceed $1\frac{1}{2}$ million. The rate of interest earned upon them after deduction of income-tax was £3 16s. 10d., which must be considered a

satisfactory return, when it is remembered that the rate is calculated upon the total funds, and not merely upon the investments.

The report of the Old Equitable is always interesting. The prestige of the unique position which the Society held for so long clings to it still, and although its present condition is probably better than ever before, other companies have now placed themselves on an equality with it. It is many years since the Equitable had so small a volume of new business to report, and this being so it is a little disappointing to find that the expenditure has increased to 10½ per cent. of the premiums, as compared with an average of less than 7 per cent. for the previous ten years. The expenses of the decennial valuation are, however, included in this expenditure, and of course an expenditure of 10 per cent. is very low. There are several offices which, unlike the Old Equitable, pay commission, and yet manage to conduct their business at a less expenditure for both commission and expenses. The average payment of British companies for expenses alone is less than 8½ per cent. of the premiums; so that the remarkable economy of the Equitable in years past seems to be somewhat on the wane. It should perhaps be added that the expenses of the annuity business, which has lately been introduced, are included in the ratio we have mentioned, and that a slight increase should be allowed for on this account.

The practice of the office in declaring exceptionally large bonuses on policies of long duration seems to be attended by the surrender of many policies immediately after a valuation. Nearly £25,000 was paid last year for policies surrendered, and £45,000 for surrender of bonuses; these two items are mainly responsible for a small decrease in the funds, the amount of which at the end of the year was £4,666,000. This item shows an increase of only about £400,000 in the course of fourteen years, a rate of progress which seems exceptionally small, while the cessation of many policies and the small amount of new business have reduced the total premium income to £187,648, as compared with £196,193 in 1899. The rate of interest earned upon the funds was only £3 6s. 3d. per cent.; but as the liabilities are valued on a $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. basis, there is a margin of over 16s. per cent. per annum of the funds as a contribution to surplus.

While a decrease in funds, and in premiums, is not quite what we should wish to see in the case of an office like the Old Equitable, it should be clearly recognised that these decreases are in no way detrimental to the interests of existing policy-holders, whose welfare has been looked after with such conspicuous success for nearly a century and a half. If the assuring public were more careful in the choice of the offices in which they assure the Old Equitable would grow at a much more rapid rate; but, as the society employs no agents, intending assurers have to go to the office at their own initiative, which, experience shows, the great majority of people will never do.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE LANGUAGE QUESTION IN THE TRANSVAAL.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

Montreal, 13 April, 1901.

SIR,—The English-speaking people of Canada have been viewing with intense interest the progress of the possible settlements with the Boers in the Transvaal and Orange River Colonies. Recently, the local newspapers stated that terms had been offered to the Boers, by which the Dutch and English languages would be placed on an equal footing. This has seemed at the least, extraordinary, as it has been alleged that the equality of French and English in Canada has not been a success. It certainly has been from a French standpoint, as the English-speaking people are being rapidly absorbed by the French, and almost any ordinary English-speaking—to use an Irishism—name can be found amongst the French, the possessor of which is practically entirely French. Of the attempts made to settle old soldiers and other English-speaking persons amongst the French, about nothing now

remains except an occasional name, and a few red heads. If the Dutch and English tongues are perpetuated in the district in question, we, in Canada, consider that South Africa will be eventually lost to the British race. It is, of course, urged, that the English-speaking peoples will, after the war, flock in, in such numbers, as to cause their own language to prevail. This, however, I respectfully venture to predict, will not be found to be the case. They will likely repair there in considerable numbers, but only to the mines and towns; whereas the Dutch will occupy the lands, and anyone leaving the towns, and attempting to become an agricultural settler, will be absorbed, and after all, it is the land that propagates and rules. I think that if an inquiry should be instituted, it would be found that even in Cape Colony and Natal the Kaffirs are using the taal more and more every year, in preference to the English which would appear to us to be one of the surest indications that the Dutch tongue is the more vigorous, and will certainly overcome the English if allowed. Besides, it is really criminal to perpetuate the divisions of race, which the two languages will surely keep up, until the Dutch shall have come to be the universal tongue. Now is the golden opportunity, and if let pass, will probably never occur again. It could be ordered that after say five or ten years, English only should be allowed in the courts, legislature and public offices, and that schools should not receive a grant, unless up to a proper standard in English, and that no contract could be enforced at law, if made in the country, unless in the English language—all contracts being presumed to be made there, until the contrary was proved.

The Dutch themselves, in Africa, evidently saw this, and compelled the French Huguenots who joined them, to drop their own tongue, and assume that of Holland alone. Without such amalgamation, can you imagine that the Boers would have become such a united people, and would have been able to make the splendid resistance which they have done, to the united power of the British Empire?—Your obedient servant, CASTOR.

AGRICULTURAL SETTLEMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

Wick Court, near Bristol, 19 May, 1901.

SIR,—If ten, twenty or even one hundred millions were raised as a fund to give settlers in South Africa a fair start, is it certain (even admitting the Transvaal contribution to be *nothing*) this would constitute a burden of taxation on the British taxpayer? I submit not.

Looking at our exports and imports it may be true we are living to some degree on capital. But, however this may be, it is certain that we yearly invest vast sums in the development of foreign countries.

If we invested even one hundred millions in the development of South Africa would this not constitute simply a *diversion* of investment rather than a tax or even an additional investment?

If this investment is made by the Government and not by any class of private individuals, what does that mean? Simply that *all* the inhabitants and not a class share in the investment. It still remains an investment by the country. F. C. CONSTABLE.

RIFLES AND THE WAR.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

SIR,—Your interesting articles on Army Reform suggest that my experience of the lessons of the war as concerned with rifles and rifle-shooting may be of interest to you. There is no doubt, and a Boer told me so, that the Lee-Metford is a superior weapon to the Mauser in most respects. It shoots further and is more accurate at long ranges. It is inferior in loading and mechanism. It must be remembered the Mauser only holds five, to the Lee Metford's ten cartridges, yet thanks to quick loading by means of clips and simple mechanism the Mauser can fire far more quickly. Our magazine as soon as emptied takes a long time to re-charge and can rarely be filled with more than eight or nine cartridges.

From personal experience I should say that our shooting was as good as or better than the Boers'. But

the fact is that as a rule accurate shooting is of little use at long ranges—that is at over 1,000 or 1,200 yards. Of course these estimates of distance will not apply to other countries in which the same clear atmospheric conditions do not prevail. At shorter ranges of 500 to 800 yards accurate shooting is very necessary and neither side showed to advantage though our men were the best. This want of accuracy on quite sudden emergencies was no doubt due to the great difficulty of judging distances. Though some of our men got very clever at this the Boers were greatly superior, and a bad shot with the right range will do more damage than a good shot with the wrong one.

In view of this I would emphasise the necessity of training men in the judging of distance and of making them shoot at unknown distances. Until this department of musketry is studied and taught great improvement in standard is scarcely possible.

I am, yours faithfully, S. E. SCOTT.

THE SCIENCE OF TIME.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

Observatory House, Wanstead, E., 6 May, 1901.

SIR,—There is a question of high scientific character which is becoming more and more important to intelligent men, and which if not soon well considered, must destroy the reputation and efficiency of some of our scientific societies. Men are asking, "What has the Greenwich Observatory to do with the science of astronomy?" It is true that the observatory is deserving of praise for the accuracy by which it determines the lengths of the periods of planetary bodies; but it does not use natural and scientific years which these bodies produce, and therefore cannot tabulate with advantage to astronomy and history in accordance with the science of time formed alone by planetary motion. The motions of celestial bodies will not submit to eras, either Anno Domini, the Hegira, or others. Neither can they be formed into date-repeating cycles by the use of years made by capricious Acts of Parliament. True astronomy requires a more scientific basis, and until natural years are used, made by the sun and starting with the autumnal equinox on the ecliptic, astronomy must remain a pagan system of star-gazing. The Astronomer Royal in page 46 of his "Manual of Astronomy," when speaking of the desirability of having a date-repeating cycle of solar eclipses, says, "If only a cycle of years could be found, such that eclipses would recur in the same order in each successive cycle, the question would be easy enough." But this is like sighing for another multiplication table. The fact is, a date-repeating cycle cannot be accomplished with our civil year, but is very easy to form with the use of natural years. The cycle then forms itself by the continued use of 223 lunations, known as the Saros, and comprises 649 natural years, during which the eclipse travels round the zodiac and must repeat its date, just as the hand of a watch must return to the hour of XII by travelling round its dial-plate. Cycles of the transits of Mercury and Venus and other celestial phenomena form themselves in the same simple way by the common use of the multiplication table and natural years.

In view of these facts I have often suggested that whilst for purposes of commerce and daily life the civil year should continue, for matters belonging to true astronomy everything must be arranged and tabulated so as to "cog" with the science of time, to which, like arithmetic, nothing can be added, nor anything taken away. All history and astronomy will then have a scientific basis.—Yours very respectfully,

J. B. DIMBLEBY.

P.S.—The above remarks require the formation of another department for the Royal Observatory; but this must be done, otherwise it can only be useful to navigation for which it was originally established.

POPULATION AND PROGRESS.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

49 Durham Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham,

19 May, 1901.

SIR,—I read with deep interest and almost entire approval the able and thoughtful article on "Popula

tion" in the current number of your Review. There are just one or two points which appear to me to be open to exception, or at least that lend themselves to fuller discussion. The writer of the article would appear to look at the masses from a "class," and he might think a safe, altitude, but it has happened before that a neglected and misgoverned horde has trampled down all class distinctions. It is wiser and better to instruct and legislate for this horde, than run the risk of a repetition of what was and must be in many respects a calamity, for "the horde" can never be a negligible quantity.

I cannot quite concede another point in the article which is, that in warfare numbers only are to be taken into account. If history is to be credited, at Crécy, Poitiers and Agincourt the sturdy British yeomen accounted for several times their number of antagonists, and even now physique and powers of endurance play a great part in warfare, and always will if a struggle is fought out to the bitter end.

There seems nothing for it now but each race or nation to look after and deal with its own overplus of population, as, taking all the continents into account, Asia has long had her own population troubles, Africa is practically a black-man's land, Australia will never carry a large population, North America is fast filling up and South America is mainly tropical and semi-tropical. Colonisation will soon cease to be a palliative to the disease of over-population.

I beg to remain, yours respectfully,

W. F. DOBBS.

J. F. R. AND THE OPERA HOUSE.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

London, 22nd May, 1901.

SIR,—The many thousands of Englishmen who daily peruse the Paris "Gaulois" (well known to be inspired by Monsieur Messenger) are under a great debt of gratitude to J. F. R. for his fearless exposure of that journal's inaccuracies, which occupied a column of your valuable space last week.

It is with great reluctance therefore that I venture to correct a slight error into which he has been betrayed. The statement of the "Gaulois" to which he took most exception was as follows:—

"Nos artistes français apprendront avec plaisir qu'ils trouveront à l'Opéra de Londres des loges aérées et spacieuses à la place des affreux réduits d'autan"—an improvement attributed to Monsieur Messenger.

J. F. R. having visited the Opera House and failed to detect any change in the boxes thereupon proceeded to unmask what he termed "the Great Lie" of the "Gaulois."

Only a few weeks ago J. F. R. informed your readers that he knew all about French theatres and their wicked ways, but he had obviously never fathomed the lowest depths of their iniquity, nor penetrated to the dreadful "loges des artistes" (artists' dressing-rooms), for it is to these, and not to the boxes, to which, as the context plainly shows, the "Gaulois" referred.

As J. F. R. appears unfamiliar with French theatrical terms, I take this opportunity of warning him that if he ever takes a fauteuil d'orchestre at the Paris Opéra Comique, he will only get a stall and not an arm-chair in the orchestra. I should not like him to be imposed upon by the management of that theatre.

I notice that J. F. R. is much exercised over the new exits from the stalls at the Opera on the ground that they necessitate the descent of stairs instead of their ascent as of yore. Now as the stalls are above the level of the street it is quite clear that sooner or later you must go down stairs to get out of the theatre, and I cannot understand why he should consider the old plan of going up eight steps, and after passing along the corridor used by the box-holders, descending sixteen more, safer than the present system of going down eight steps to the street level in the first instance. If J. F. R. were on the entresol of a burning house, he would hardly rush up to the first floor in order to escape down two flights of the back staircase.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

ONE OF THE SYNDICATE.

REVIEWS.

HISTORY REDUCED TO JOURNALISM.

"A History of the Four Georges and of William IV." By Justin and Huntly McCarthy. Vols. III. and IV. London: Chatto and Windus. 1901. 24s.

THE account given us in these two volumes of the period they cover, a space of some seventy-seven years (1760-1837), is neither adequate nor complete. Their general character will be at once appreciated if we cite a few of the headings of the chapters, and quote a couple of passages from the book. The first chapter on the accession of George III. is introduced to us as "Supreme Irony Procession" that on his struggle with the Whigs as "George and the Dragon." The War of the American Independence is headed "Yankee Doodle." The reign of William IV. "Opens amid Ill-omens," and continues in "Popular Alarms and Royal Excursions." The chapter on the New Poor Law is dubbed "Only a Pauper." The reader will not be surprised, therefore, to hear that the authors consider the phrase "beneath the dignity of history" a detestable one (iii. 269), or that they speak with approval of "observers of a lighter sort" who "are pleased to insist upon trifles which have momentous influence upon the fortunes of peoples and the fates of empires" (iii. 8). To authors of this disposition it is the more theatrical and the more personal aspects of history which appeal most strongly. The revels of Medmenham Abbey, the more amusing and scandalous side of the controversies which raged round Wilkes, the popular frenzy and extravagance which attended the Gordon Riots, the scandals which surround the person of George IV. as regent and as king, also that of William IV., the dramatic circumstances of the impeachment of Warren Hastings; these and such matters are dwelt upon in great detail and with evident appreciation while other topics of greater importance are hurriedly disposed of, and sometimes omitted. Thus the foreign relations of England during the reign of George III. are only slightly touched upon; of the terms of the Peace of Paris 1763 we are told nothing. The causes of the war with France, in 1793, and the details of that great struggle are treated in a most perfunctory manner. The Peace of Amiens (1802) and the two Treaties of Paris (1814, 1815) are not even mentioned. The Congress of Vienna (1814-1815) we are indeed told changed the face of Europe, but how it did so, or how exactly it affected England we are left to find out elsewhere.

This method of treatment not only gives an impression of vagueness and of looseness to the book, but leads to a serious want of proportion. Thus while the controversies which arose in connexion with Wilkes cover some 68 pages, the impeachment of Warren Hastings 61, the Gordon Riots 30, and the War of American Independence 101; the mighty contest with revolutionary France and with Napoleon, a contest which lasted twenty-one years, is dismissed in less than 40, most of which are taken up with personal sketches of Napoleon and of Wellington, and the nine years between the death of Pitt to the battle of Waterloo are hurried over in eleven lines. No doubt it may be pleaded that the aim of the book is to sketch the internal history of England, and to delineate the social and constitutional progress. But even from this point of view the work cannot be said to be complete. The influence of the French Revolution on the internal policy of William Pitt is not mentioned at all, its influence on the attitude of English parties and on English opinion generally is by no means worked out, the great industrial revolution which fell exactly within the period is most inadequately handled, while the terms even of great measures like that of Pitt's India Bill, the Act of Union with Ireland, the Reform Bill of 1832, and the new Poor Law, 1834, are never definitely or exhaustively stated.

The book may perhaps be best described as a series of biographical sketches with just so much history as is necessary to form a framework. It reminds one somewhat of Thackeray's "Four Georges," while in the sensational character of the headings to the chapters and the pages we recall the method of

Carlyle. Some of these sketches are of considerable merit, notably those of George IV. and William IV., of Pitt, Fox, Canning, and Lord Brougham. Others are far too slight to be of any value, and are sometimes suddenly introduced for no reason other than that the person died at the particular juncture. Thus Sir Walter Scott is described in one page at the end of the chapter on the Reform Bill solely because he died in the same year, while in the last chapter a list of twenty-one, including philanthropists, historians, essayists, poets, actors, and impostors, and concluding with the unfortunate Mrs. Fitzherbert, are crowded into twelve pages, of which one page and a half is devoted to Bentham Malthus and James Mill. Surely these at least, if to be mentioned at all, deserve a more elaborate treatment.

Nor is there any deficiency of instances of slipshod writing. Thus at iv. 142 Canning is spoken of as if alive three years after his death, at iii. 412 the flight of Louis XVI. is said to have begun "in laborious pomp" a phrase which does not very happily describe the hurried departure of the King. The attack on the Tuileries to August is spoken of as occurring *after* the massacres of September (iii. 414). The French victories of 1793 are attributed "to ragged legions of desperate men" (iii. 415) although von Sybel has conclusively proved that the "levy en masse" did not come into the fighting line till the following year. The circumstances which led to the dismissal of the Coalition Ministry are not fully told (iii. 324). It was not the India Bill itself which gave the King the pretext for dismissing his Ministers, but their unwise if not unconstitutional conduct in supporting the famous resolution "that to report any opinion of His Majesty upon any Bill before Parliament, with a view to influence members, is a high crime and misdemeanour, a breach of the fundamental privileges of Parliament and subversion of the Constitution." No doubt the King was only too glad to seize upon the pretext—but the conduct of the Government in thus supporting a motion which virtually amounted to a vote of censure on the King, whose servants they then were, is probably without parallel in our Parliamentary history, and served only to increase the growing unpopularity of that unfortunate Ministry which should never have been formed, and which finally ruined the political hopes of Charles James Fox.

With the judgments expressed in the book we have no especial quarrel. If they are somewhat one-sided, and if they are at times marked with the somewhat superficial shibboleths of the Liberal politician, the book is on the whole conceived in a spirit of toleration, and justice is for the most part done to all. To this statement there are however two notable exceptions. Perhaps it was hardly to be hoped that anyone with the Irish sympathies of the Messrs. McCarthy should be able to treat of the policy of England towards that unhappy island with strict impartiality, but one might expect that the Act of Union would have met with fuller treatment (iv. 452). Surely something better might be looked for in the handling of the quarrel of England with her North American colonies, a subject whose treatment, though disproportionately long, is singularly wanting in fairness. The commercial policy of England previous to the reign of George III. is described as something abnormal in its selfishness, whereas England only shared the view then universally held by all other European countries that colonies should act as feeders to the trade and prosperity of the mother country. No suggestion is made that the commercial legislation was at least based on a certain theory of reciprocity, nor are the writers apparently aware that a new school of historians has arisen of late in America who hold that Adam Smith was right after all when he declared that the prohibitions are to be condemned rather "as impertinent badges of slavery" imposed on the Americans than as "seriously cramping their industry or restraining it from any employment to which it would have gone of its own accord." In dealing with the actual causes of the war the authors are open to the criticism passed by Mr. Goldwin Smith on the Declaration of Independence given in his admirable outline of the "Political History of the United States," p. 88. "It proceeds he says to recount

in a highly rhetorical strain all the offensive acts of George III. and his Government designating them 'as a long train of abuses and usurpations pursuing invariably the same object and evincing a design to reduce the colonist under absolute despotism' . . . propositions which history cannot accept. It blinks the fact that many of the acts styled steps of usurpation were measures of repression which however unwise or excessive had been provoked by popular outrage." We are not reminded that the colonists changed their views as to the right of the mother country to impose indirect taxation. The leaders of the revolt are lauded to the skies. We are not shown that many of the leaders of the revolt were largely influenced by motives of personal ambition, and were from the first secretly aiming at independence, though it was not safe to say so openly. Nor do they bear in mind the dilemma presented by Mr. Goldwin Smith (p. 72). That if the authors of the revolt were not aiming at independence "they could hardly have been groaning under systematic oppression; nothing less than which, moderate men would say, can justify revolution and civil war. If they did, the British Government apparently may claim to be absolved so far as they are concerned, since what they sought was a thing which by their own showing the vast majority of their own people abhorred, as well as a thing which by its recognised duty the British Government was bound to refuse." In short, the writers, like all "panegyric historians, stand not for two pages on the same foot; in one page they applaud the patriot for aiming at independence, in the next they represent constitutional redress as his sole aim."

Our space does not permit any further criticism. We have said enough to indicate the deficiencies of the two volumes before us, deficiencies, some of which, more especially the want of proportion and the omissions, may be explainable by the difficulties of dual authorship. Nor do we wish to deny that the book has merit. The character sketches as we have said before are often good. Some of the subjects are well handled notably the question of Parliamentary Reform and the great measures which followed in its wake. The style, if sometimes flippant, is never dull. Those who already know the facts or do not want to be wearied by too many of them, having no soul for an exhaustive account of things, have here an opportunity of conduct by a chatty and readable, if somewhat superficial, guide over a most interesting period of our annals. No serious demand will be made upon their memory, and they will be introduced to many amusing personal anecdotes which they may fail to find in the standard histories.

CANON GORE ON THE EUCHARIST.

"The Body of Christ." By Charles Gore. London: Murray. 1901. 5s. net.

THE Church of England, like everything else, is at present in a backwater and almost leaderless. Canon Gore's learning, spirituality and great abilities place him in the front rank of her "leading men," but he has some disqualifications for being a leader. Catholic by conviction but Liberal and modern by temperament, he might be supposed peculiarly fitted to reconcile orthodoxy and the spirit of the new age. No one could be fairer or more anxious to look all round a question. Nevertheless, in spite of all he has done to conciliate modern thought, Canon Gore has never been quite in touch with the older High Churchmanship.

It is, to be sure, the mediævaliser rather than the apostolical who is hit by the present eirenicon. And yet to be fundamentally out of sympathy with the middle ages is to be cold to some of the richest aspects of Christian idealism. Nor can the thoughtful man, though untouched by the beauty of mediæval devotion, acquiesce complacently in the idea of severance from the common traditions and teachings of the Western Church. The welcome with which his book has been received in certain quarters is perhaps not wholly pleasing to the author. At the same time he has considered it, we think justly, a duty to warn High Church extremists of the danger of losing the proportion of the faith. How far may the objectivity of the eucharistic Presence be logically pushed? All except Zwinglians—

but popular protestantism has drifted away from Calvin towards Zwinglius—agree that the Gift is presented to, not created by, faith. "The eating and drinking of the Lord's Body in the Sacrament," as Thorndike says, "presupposes the being of it in the Sacrament." In some sense even the wicked recipient really receives a spiritual Gift which he misuses, for Our Lord in all His redeeming work places Himself, so to speak, at the mercy of men. The elements "*extra usum sacramenti*" are, both rubric and natural reverence teach, to be regarded with an awe which is not paid to the element in baptism. A *res* as well as a *virtus sacramenti* is clearly recognised by Anglican formularies. The Fathers speak in the boldest language about a Presence on the altar and in the hands. On the other hand that which is "given taken and eaten after a heavenly and spiritual manner" cannot, though the Body is broken and distributed to all alike from the altar in their midst, be conceived as properly local. Moreover the Sacrament has been given for a sacramental purpose, for our food and sustenance, and the "light-hearted security" which reserves the consecrated species for other uses is not entitled, Canon Gore maintains, to assume boldly a covenanted Presence. He earnestly urges, too, that severance of the Sacrifice from the Communion is untheological and un-Catholic. There has grown up a tendency to make non-communicating attendance the normal, and communion the exceptional, duty of the Christian people. He would not have any but those who never communicate withdraw; and indeed the ordinary practice by which, after assembling for a preparatory monastic office, the bulk of the congregation are played out of church just as the one divinely appointed service is going to begin, is utterly unliturgical and indefensible. The rubrics recognise no break, except one for separating from "the people," and "conveniently placing," "them that mind to come to the Holy Communion." Yet, in the words of S. Thomas, "He who offers the sacrifice must participate of the sacrifice." The Church offers herself as united with the life of her Head. Next, the sacrificial action is directed primarily to the Eternal Father. Christ in the midst of the Church is to be adored on earth as in heaven; but, Canon Gore considers, it was in the earlier Church as Priest even more than as the Agnus Dei, and he deprecates eucharistical adoration being too rigidly associated with the moment, if there be a defined moment, of consecration. His standpoint is thus Eastern, not Occidental. What used to be called "our incomparable liturgy" is, with all its merits, "singularly unprimitive in structure," not only as sadly mutilated in 1552—the lady did protest too much—but as more Roman, in some respects, than the Missal. He should remember, however, how matter-of-fact and yet vague the English mind is, how illogical and yet lacking spirituality and imagination. The dreamy ambiguities and devout indefiniteness of Oriental Christianity are not for us. Again we are reminded that, as it is the common reason of man which constitutes the external universe, so in the spiritual region objectivity is not absolute but relative to the Church's Faith. Holy things to holy persons. But this introduction of Berkleyan metaphysics surely confuses the matter. The stone struck by Dr. Johnson was objective to him and to every other passer-by. The question which arises about the sacred ordinance is whether the Corpus Domini is objectively present to the congregation or only to the recipient at the moment of reception, or on the other hand subjectively created in the heart by the communicant's faith.

Dr. Gore's is a balanced rather than a balancing divinity. But he conveys the impression of always thinking out his position, and the result is sometimes looked for with anxiety. There is, after all, a Catholic doctrine of the Eucharist.

A BENEDICTINE HOUSE AT OXFORD.

"Worcester College." By C. Henry Daniel and W. R. Barker. "College Histories." London: Robinson. 1900. 5s. net.

WORCESTER COLLEGE is the modern name of an ancient foundation. Like some other colleges at both Universities it has been the victim of an historical discontinuity, which has obscured its true antiquity.

Yet some of its buildings, if nothing else, connect it with its monastic predecessor, and the ghosts of buried Benedictines, one may fancy, know their way about its gardens.

It was in the year 1275 that a project for the establishment of a Benedictine college in Oxford was first entertained by a synod of the Order for the province of Canterbury assembled at Abingdon. To meet the expense of erecting suitable buildings it was resolved that every monastery in the province should contribute an income-tax of twopence in the mark, with a further annual sum of a penny in the mark for their upkeep. For some reason this plan was not immediately carried out. While it was still pending S. Peter's Gloucester was enabled by the benefaction of John Giffarde of Brimsfield to establish an independent foundation for the accommodation of thirteen monks of Gloucester. This timely intervention enabled this monastery and its patron to pose as founders of the new place of education, which was known accordingly as Gloucester College.

It is unnecessary to trace the steps by which Gloucester College opened its doors first to all the members of the Benedictine Order in the Province of Canterbury, and ultimately in 1337 to the Province of York as well. From this date onwards it drew its students from not less than thirty-eight abbeys and priories scattered over the whole of England. None of these was connected with the college by closer or more friendly ties than the monastery of S. Albans. It is from the records of such foundations, where they exist, that the history of Gloucester College must be painfully compiled. The college itself has left no records whatever. The new foundation was born to trouble. To begin with it never received a charter of incorporation. Consequently it remained until its dissolution in 1541 little better than a collection of chambers raised at random upon a disputed freehold. This was the second trouble, a consequence of the first. It was very well for the pious founder to grant "four messuages and a toft with their appurtenances to the Prior and Convent of the Order of S. Benedict at Oxford." But since the grantee had no legal entity, the grant was of course void, and John Giffarde, having in later life fallen under the influence of the Abbot of Malmesbury, executed a fresh deed in which the Abbot was named as donee. This arrangement, as may be supposed, was for centuries a fruitful source of controversy.

The internal discipline of the college was vested in a prior. This officer according to the original scheme and in conformity with the practice of the Order was to be elected by the whole body of students. Afterwards the power of appointment may have passed to the Abbot of Abingdon. The prior was selected from the senior students of the college. The early retirement from Oxford of each successive holder of the office made elections with their attendant disorders a matter of very frequent occurrence. The students themselves were recruited from the various Benedictine establishments in proportion to their numbers, and each house had to provide for the maintenance of its students at the University. The eagerness of the young monks to go to Oxford was equalled by the reluctance of their monasteries to send them. For the student residence at the University afforded a welcome escape from monastic discipline, and for the more ambitious an avenue of advancement. The priors and abbots on the other hand in spite of fines and censures resorted to every shift in order to avoid supplying students to the University. The inordinate length of the University course and the considerable expense of maintaining scholars furnish a sufficient explanation of this reluctance. In the University itself the inmates of Gloucester College held no very distinguished position. Claiming exemption from the jurisdiction of the Chancellor's Court, and little amenable to the authority of their own Prior, its students were often a disorderly element in the academic population. Shortly before the dissolution complaints became numerous. In 1517 "John Haynes had armed four turbulent Benedictines and three seculars and endeavoured to kill a proctor." A few years later a black monk of the order was privy to

the abominable crime of having eaten twenty legs of mutton, five rounds of beef and six capons in the season of Lent.

The dissolution of the monasteries put an end to Gloucester College by cutting off its supply of students. It was replaced by Gloucester Hall, which maintained a precarious existence as a place of education for something like a century and a half. During the earlier part of this period it was a lurking place for Papists. William Stocke, the first principal of the Hall, died in 1607 "in a mean condition yet always in animo Catholicus." Meanwhile the freehold of the Hall had passed to Sir Thomas White, the founder of S. John's College, who thought at one time of making it the site of his own foundation, but was deterred from doing so by a dream. Later Nicholas Wadham fixed upon it for his college, but once again difficulties prevented the realisation of the scheme.

At the end of the seventeenth century the Hall had fallen on evil days, when Dr. Woodroffe conceived the madcap notion of turning it into a college for boys belonging to the Greek Church with the object of promoting the union of Christendom. In pursuance of this scheme a few shifty Greeklings were from time to time imported. They turned out as badly as was to be expected. Dr. Woodroffe on his part was charged, no doubt justly, with trying to subvert their faith. A pretty quarrel ensued, a record of which is to be found in two very rare tracts, the first by Woodroffe, the second by a certain Francis Prossalentes, a recalcitrant disciple.

The modern college was founded in 1714 under the will of Sir Thomas Cookes. Its annals are respectable. A large proportion of its members have adopted the Church as their profession.

Neither Gloucester College nor the successive establishments that have occupied its site have been prolific of great men. The Hall was the residence of some notorious persons as Richard Lovelace, Carew the Regicide, Thomas Coryat, Robert Catesby, Kenelm Digby, and Thomas Allen. The modern college produced Samuel Foote and Thomas de Quincey. Other names of note are those of Andrew Bloxam, a distinguished naturalist of the early part of the last century, Dean Burgon, Thorold Rogers and Henry Kingsley.

No one is better qualified by knowledge and association than Mr. Daniel to compile the annals of Worcester College. An accident prevented him from seeing the work through the Press. This duty was undertaken by his collaborator, Mr. Barker, a former scholar of the College. The result of their co-operation is a volume which is a worthy representative of Mr. Robinson's excellent series of college histories.

A "GENTLEMAN'S RECREATION."

"Reminiscences of a Falconer." By Major Fisher. London: Nimmo. 1900. 10s. 6d. net.

IT has become almost an article in the sporting creed of most persons that falconry, "the favourite sport of our ancestors," has become extinct, at any rate in Europe—that it is occasionally revived by a few enthusiasts and then is allowed to fade away into the obscurity of the Middle Ages. Such a book as the "Reminiscences" of Major Charles Hawkins Fisher will go far towards the disillusionment of those who still retain such ideas. It is the fact that falconry has never for a moment become extinct, and that it is practised at the present day with not one whit less skill or success than was devoted to it three centuries ago. It is true enough that owing to the enclosure and cultivation of the greater part of the United Kingdom, to the formation of large plantations and the breaking up of commons and wastes, the sport, which needs for its development an exceptionally open country can no longer be practised in most parts of England. But for all that, where the country is suitable, hawking has been practised without intermission from those days when it was the favourite sport of all classes, and suitable country abounded everywhere, down to the present time, when sport is so varied and so abundant that only a few keen sportsmen can spare the time which this most exacting of pursuits demands shall be devoted to it,

while they have for the most part to travel far afield in order to find ground on which to enjoy their favourite pastime.

In Major Hawkins Fisher's book we find no dry treatise on the proper methods of training and flying hawks, culled from a hundred ancient volumes on the art. It is simply what its title denotes "Reminiscences" of many good days' sport and of many a good falcon such as "Lady Jane Grey" who was a favourite of eight years' service, told in a pleasant chatty style in the fashion of anecdotes related in a country-house smoking-room. The first chapter in the book is, truly, one on the so-called "Revival of Falconry" but this chapter was written some twenty years ago before the author had arrived at the knowledge and experience he afterwards attained to. It was moreover written "to order" at the instance of the promoters of a madly impossible scheme for popularising falconry at the Alexandra Park. Of all sports hawking, properly carried out, is one of the wildest and at the same time quietest. Large "fields" rarely conduce to success and a crowded neighbourhood is not one where good chances at wild game can be obtained.

The remaining chapters of the book deal with its author's own experiences on the downs of Wilts, the Gloucestershire wolds, and various moors in England, Scotland, Wales, and Ireland. The biographies of many good hawks are given and many interesting anecdotes of remarkable flights with both wild and trained falcons adorn these histories. The flight at a woodcock for instance fairly infects the reader with the enthusiasm of the narrator. This appears to have been a solitary success with this particular quarry. But in the latter part of the last century and even as late as 1830 the famous falconers John Anderson and John Pells used to fly their hawks regularly at woodcocks in Scotland and looked upon it as one of the best flights they could show to their employers. Major Fisher also was exceptionally lucky in witnessing to advantage one of those marvellous flights at the peewit by a wild tiercel, flights that end, as every falconer knows, in the leaving on the open down of a skeleton surrounded by a litter of feathers; and as he finds traces of the kill his heart is torn with envy at the thought that while the wild falcon can easily gain her living by taking these active birds, he has no hawk in his mews that can perform the feat. For, as Major Fisher tells us, the worst wild hawk is infinitely superior to the best trained hawk that ever flew.

Major Fisher is an ardent devotee of game-hawking and puts the flight at the grouse before all others, even the "haute volée" at the heron, the kite, and the rook, contrary to the opinion held by most falconers. The first-named sport is followed on foot with the aid of dogs, and is much akin to shooting. The latter is followed on horseback and is more like hunting, and by most falconers is considered the higher branch of the sport. But, as our author tells us, the flight at the kite and even the heron is not now practicable in England, while his personal experiences, to which he confines himself, do not extend to the East where those flights are readily obtained. In short the volume consists of the history of the recreations of an English gentleman pleasantly told as they occurred to him, without any attempt at the making of a book or much method in the telling. Indeed where any special adventure has had a particular charm for him he has not scrupled to relate it more than once, and thus we have told to us no less than three times over, at some considerable length, the tale of how a wild merlin nearly succumbed to "Lundy" and twice how a sparrow-hawk did actually fall a victim to the falcon "Erin." It is not clear to brother-falconers why this latter achievement should have been deemed so great a feat, for it is one that has often been performed by trained hawks. But the Major relates his own experiences in his own delightfully charming and naïve way and surely since the days of "old Grouse in the gunroom" a good story has never been the worse for repetition.

The book is well got up and is adorned with excellent reproductions of photographs of hawking groups of a character that is very familiar to all of us in these days of kodaks and snapshots. Of these it will suffice to say that some are better than others.

TWO BOOKS ON BRIDGE.

"The A.B.C. of Bridge." By Eleanor A. Tennant. London: Drane. 1901. 1s.

"Bridge Abridged." By W. Dalton. London: De la Rue. 1901. 3s. 6d.

THE number of books on Bridge is evidence of the growing popularity of the game. As Mr. Dalton observes in his preface, whist had grown too scientific for the average man, still more for the average woman. Most men play cards as a relaxation from more serious pursuits, and the tired barrister or harassed stockbroker could not be bothered with antepenultimate leads and subechoes. Bridge is a reaction against this mechanical rigidity, and after an absence of nearly a century it has recalled the fair sex to the card-table. Not that bridge is really an easier game than whist: its very variety makes it more difficult to play well, and the bungler is more heavily mulcted from the nature of the scoring. But it is not difficult to play adequately; well enough, that is, to amuse yourself, if not your partner; and now that duchesses and cabinet ministers have set the seal of fashion on the game, everybody wants to acquire the modicum of science requisite to take a hand. To satisfy this modest ambition we have not met a better guide than Mrs. Tennant's "A.B.C. of Bridge." It is a perilous task to teach the A.B.C. of anything to "grown-ups:" tact and wit are required to make your dogmatism palatable. Mrs. Tennant possesses both these qualities, and consequently succeeds to perfection. She assumes that her learners know nothing, not even "bumble-puppy" whist, and clearly and concisely explains such mysteries as "unblocking" and leading "through strength up to weakness." Occasionally, only now and then, we feel inclined to "ask the reason why." For instance, in her chapter on discards, one of the most difficult things in the game, Mrs. Tennant says that when trumps are declared against you, you should discard from your strong suit. We have no doubt every whist-player knows why: but Mrs. Tennant's pupils probably do not. Mr. Dalton flies at higher game. He writes for the large class who intervene between the ignoramus and the learned: and though he disclaims theories, he has, like most writers on bridge, a game of his own to push, which he does very convincingly. Mr. Dalton is what is called a forward player, who favours a light "no-trumper." For instance, he describes a hand with only one ace, and only one certain trick, in which the other suits are adequately guarded as a sound no-trump call. It is interesting to learn that when you hold no ace in your own hand it is four to one on your partner's holding at least one. Everyone who wishes to emerge from the rut of duffers should read Mr. Dalton. There is one peculiarity of human nature at the bridge table that neither Mrs. Tennant nor Mr. Dalton attempts to explain. Why does bridge cause the ordinary player to break into British or schoolroom French? "C'est à vous, monsieur:" "Tiens, a-t-on idée de ça?" "Est-ce possible!" "Nous sommes finis," &c. Such is the running accompaniment, in too often a Cockney accent, to the fall of the cards. Gentle shepherd, or rather professor, tell me why.

NOVELS.

"The Lost Land." By Julia M. Crottie. London: Unwin. 1901. 6s.

Miss Crottie, whose next appearance in literature readers of her Irish story "Neighbours" were expecting with interest, describes her present volume as the annals of a Cromwellian-Irish town, "being the autobiography of Miss Annita Lombard, 1780-1797." Though the book is not an historical novel, the troubled history of the time has a fateful influence upon the family fortunes of the young girl who tells the story. By training and inclination one of the true Irish, though tinged with much of the constancy and insight of her Cromwellian forefathers, she and her brothers pass an anxious childhood amid the distracted elements of a Munster town. After a story that is mainly one of gathering trouble for all but the grimly drawn Protestant "Ascendancy," and the meanest and most shift of the

Catholics, the brother appears for the last time amid the rumours and fugitives of the rebellion, to find neither help nor self-respect in those whom he had tried to inspire, and the book closes with his sister's despair by his graveside. Though the picture is in the main dark, it is drawn with discrimination and restraint, and with the qualities of concentration and suggestiveness that dispense successfully with a copiousness of detail. The unstable and pretentious middle-class families of Curraglen, whose chief care after a century and a half of subjection is to bid for the social favour of the Protestant residents and the Government behind them by a repudiation of their own people, are vividly and strikingly drawn; so too is the courageous independence of the impressionable boys and girl in the curious stresses of their daily life, while the fact that the whole story is seen from the childish point of view gives an impression of tragic forces in reserve which is extremely effective. The book is one of more than ordinary merit, and may be judged a most able and at the same time temperate literary endeavour to convey to the English reader a sense of the eternal racial misunderstanding which has lain at the bottom of the troubled relations of the two islands.

"Horace Morrell." By Cecil Haselwood. London: Drane. 1901. 6s.

There is a mock virility about this novel which is both a little perplexing and a little irritating. Mr. Haselwood becomes sentimental when he wishes to be pathetic; he is namby pamby when he intends to be pretty and simple. Yet the book is not without human interest and is good in parts. Its chief weakness is an obvious double-barrelled mission. Mr. Haselwood has made a love story the medium of an attack on Ritualism and vivisection, and whilst it is beyond question that he has given much earnest thought to both, neither would have much to fear if stronger arguments than are here advanced were not forthcoming. Horace Morrell is a man of extremes. In the beginning he takes no interest in religion; but when his interest is once aroused he goes to the verge of Romanism only to doubt and plunge back to atheism, from which he escapes with the aid of Nature and a devoted wife. In the same way with vivisection. He shows clearly that the cause of science can be advanced without cruelty to the lower animals. Yet because vivisection is abused by others, he abandons it altogether. Lady Wimborne and the Anti-Vivisection Society will welcome the book, but as a novel it is hardly a success and for the average novel-reader the pill is insufficiently coated. Propagandist fiction demands more than mediocrity of treatment.

"The Prettiness of Fools." By Edgar Hewitt. London: Greening. 1900. 6s.

There is a certain pathos about this story, because it gives the impression that though scarlet with literary vices there might have been real good in it. The author seems to have deliberately cultivated a dashing impressionist style of treatment which in trying to avoid the banality of plain statement often ends by conveying no connected meaning at all; and even when comprehensible his characters often disport themselves wildly and unreally enough, for the book as it stands is pre eminently smart and modern. The heroine is unconvincing at the best of times. It is not enough to try to palm off her inconsistencies and irregularities of mind by occasional reminders that she read Shelley, was a poetess herself, and never could contemplate the Pole Star with a perfect sangfroid. But the two chief masculine figures, if treated with an absence of superficial folly might have shown strength and feeling; and there is visible throughout the book a very serviceable skill in the handling of plot and incident.

"Afield and Afloat." By Frank R. Stockton. London: Cassell. 1901. 6s.

This is merely a bookful of particularly thin short stories, of a type which would confer no credit upon the author of work very far inferior to that exquisitely humorous volume "Rudder Grange." They make no pretence to any connexion of subject, and the author appears to have arrived at his general title "Afield and

Afloat" much on the principle of the gentleman in the nursery rhyme who when he was found to be not at home was frequently found to be out. Instances are fortunately not common of published writings from any author so greatly inferior to earlier achievements as is this featureless volume. It is eked out with illustrations twelve in number and fair in quality.

NEW BOOKS AND REPRINTS.

"The Military Law Examiner." By Lieut.-Colonel Pratt. London: Gale and Polden. 1900. 4s. 6d.

"Questions on Military Law." By Lieut.-Colonel Brunker. London: Gale and Polden. 1900. 2s.

Both of these books should serve their purpose well. The former is the work of an already well-known and admirably clear writer on military law, and the latter is especially designed to meet the new requirements of the Militia competitive examination. Their perusal suggests a consideration of the merits and defects of the examination in question. Candidly it is hard to see how it could have been more injudiciously conceived, and it seems probable that its ridiculous requirements will work injuriously both for the line and the Militia. The Militia competitive examination was originally designed to meet the case of those boys who though possessing fair intelligence have not learnt much at school. Consequently their knowledge of classics, mathematics &c. was not sufficient to enable them to pass into Sandhurst. The old Militia competitive examination, however, afforded a loophole for such of those who desired to enter the army. There can be no question that by this means many excellent officers, whose military knowledge on joining was of a fair order, were obtained for the army. Now, however, all this has been changed. Mathematics—elementary and higher—Latin, Greek and military history have been added, while tactics have entirely been cut out. Now the absurdity of setting a youth, ignorant even of the most elementary tactical principles, to study Hamley's "Operations of War" is patent at a glance. Indeed the very superficial knowledge of the subject which he will thus acquire will certainly be of no use to him for many years to come. On the other hand a knowledge, even if superficial, of some guiding principles and details of tactics could hardly fail to be of some use to him. At any rate it is absurd to teach him to run before he can walk. The plain issue therefore resolves itself into this. By these new regulations we shall cease to tap a valuable source for the supply of officers since we now afford the young man who could not pass a competitive examination in "school" subjects no chance of entering the army. Moreover another indirect result may be that in the future it will be harder than ever to fill up the subaltern ranks of the Militia. We have already treated of Sandhurst. But this particular branch of military education stands almost as much in need of reform as does that establishment. Above all we require a responsible director of military education, who would really do the work of his department. At present this is not done, and most of the work is left to permanent officials and to chance.

"Logs of the Great Sea Fights, 1794-1805." Edited by T. Sturges Jackson, Rear-Admiral. Vol. II. London: Printed for the Navy Records Society. 1900.

This volume gives the logs of ships engaged at the battles of the Nile and Trafalgar, and in Nelson's attack on Copenhagen. They do not contain much matter not already known of these actions. Even the most momentous events are but briefly recorded in ships' logs. In the first place the space allotted to "Remarks" is very limited, and secondly there is not much time to write during a hot action. Hence we find the logs do not give a full account, and even the times of certain important occurrences differ. The private letters give more accurate records of great exploits, such for instance as of the Nile in the letter of Captain Miller of the "Theseus" to Mrs. Miller included here. There is also a good account of Trafalgar in a letter from Lieutenant Browne of the "Victory" to his parents. We are given interesting details such as that the "Victory" had the colours hoisted and lashed in several places. Provision was made for everything but striking the flag. There is also a letter from Villeneuve, who was a Rear-Admiral under Brueys at the Nile, to Blanquet also in that position at the action on board the "Franklin"—explaining why he did not weigh and come to the assistance of the van. He was moored with two anchors down and would have had to beat up against a light wind. He contends he could not have arrived at the other end of the line before the van was annihilated. That may be so; but imagine Nelson or Collingwood remaining inactive in similar circumstances!

"The Naval Annual, 1901." Portsmouth: Griffin. 1901. 15s. net.

The care bestowed on this standard work deserves nothing but praise and it is pleasing to note Lord Brassey's signature to Chapters I. and VII. The importance of "manning" cannot be overrated, and Lord Brassey's suggestions are very useful. At the same time, that "It is idle to propose a return to the old Navigation Laws" is matter for argument. Sir John

Hopkins gives thirty auxiliary ships, as a rough estimate, for the supplement of the Mediterranean Squadron. An enormous bill for "auxiliaries" must therefore be expected in the near future, for the necessity for them nowadays is generally recognised. Turning to the subject of submarine boats, it seems a pity the Admiralty should have decided on boats of one type, since they are acknowledged to be for experiment only, but there may be reason for it. Germany and the United States are developing sea power at a rate which should give politicians pause, and that England has but four battleships on the stocks whilst these two Powers have respectively six and eight is not at all reassuring. Captain Bacon has, in his admirable chapter on "Strategy," overlooked the Spanish-American War when he says that "no experience in past wars exists to warn us of risking failure" in the maintenance of coal supply, but such a slight slip only serves to accentuate the accuracy of the book throughout. The names of the contributors constitute a guarantee of excellence. The contents are interesting not only to the expert but to the general reader, and it is to be wished that the latter would study them oftener.

"How Sailors Fight." By John Blake. London: Grant Richards. 1901. 6s.

It is a pity for the author that he should have thought these "sketches" worth publication in book form. They have neither technical nor literary merit. All the information they contain may easily be found in the usual service handbooks. Technical accuracy is not to be looked for in a work of this kind, but a grammar and dictionary might have saved the author from such a collapse in language as may be found on p. 127 or on p. 99, where we are told that "ships like men are merely human." Captain Lambton is stated to have read the proofs. It would have been kind of him to tell the author that an engineer student does not wear a frock coat like a "flag officer," and the accountant branch is not distinguishable by a "light blue" stripe on the cuff. He might have proceeded to define "executive officer," and to explain that no commissioned "rank" is a "rating." English seamen do not speak of "smoke-stacks," "slicing" telegraphs, and making "tweaks" on armour. They never talk of being "on" but "in" a ship; and they call a ship a "ship" and not a "boat." The descriptions of sea fights in chapters iv., vi., vii. are childish, and the opinions expressed devoid of value.

"Adam Bede." By George Eliot. Blackwood. 1 vol. 10s. 6d. Dent. 2 vols. 1s. 6d. each.

If "Adam Bede" does not immediately find a place on everyone's bookshelf the fault will not be that of the publishers. Two new editions appear this week, one forming the initial volume of Messrs. Blackwood's Library Edition of George Eliot, the other being an addition to Messrs. Dent's Temple Library. Both are admirable. Messrs. Blackwood's "Adam Bede" is handsome; Messrs. Dent's handy. In either form "this tragic idyll," as A. M. in the Temple Edition calls it, is sure of a wide welcome.

"Concise Etymological Dictionary of the English Language."

By W. W. Skeat. Oxford: at the Clarendon Press. 1901.

This new edition is almost a new book. The older form, issued in 1882, has been collated with the many important dictionaries since published, a great number of additions and alterations have been made, and the alphabetical order has been adopted throughout. The former excellences have been enlarged and emphasised. Among new words we notice the historically significant "sjambok" and "kopje."

"Journal of the Queen Victoria Indian Memorial Fund."

This is the first number of a journal which is to be published at intervals until the scheme for the memorial at Calcutta has taken definite shape, and will fulfil a useful purpose in popularising the ideas of the committee. The April number is principally filled by the full text of a speech and an address by Lord Curzon.

SCANDINAVIAN LITERATURE.

Heliga Brigittas Pilgrimsfärd. By Verner von Heidenstam. Stockholm: Albert Bonnier. 1901. Kr. 4.50.

With this book, Herr von Heidenstam adds another brilliant and perplexing page to his treatment of great Swedish historic themes. As already pointed out in these columns, he stands in the foremost rank of writers of historical romance. Indeed, few writers in Europe surpass him in the necessary endowment of insight, knowledge, power and style. One can only regret that the fairy godmothers have not seen fit to add the gift of simplicity, which disguises cleverness and carries the reader along. It is there in places—Herr von Heidenstam has the creative gift, too; whole pages cannot be read without admiration, and something better than admiration. But as a whole, his books leave a perplexing impression. One is not quite sure if one has been reading something imbued with a quality which later generations will appreciate better than we do, with the help of some kindly discoverer—as Miss Key has been teaching the Swedes lately to appreciate Almqvist, the bizarre and highly gifted exponent of the Romanticism of sixty years ago—or an essay in reconstructive psychology in inadequate and hampering disguise, or a brilliant tour de force of the combined history and impressions of travel, so much the

fashion now. Besides, Herr von Heidenstam has this in common at least with the late R. L. Stevenson. . . . He cannot draw a convincing figure of a woman. His women are types, not personalities. Thus his interesting and valuable reading of the character of the Swedish saint is marred by the fact that he does not succeed in making her live. Yet when all is said and done, this narrative of the "Pilgrimage of Saint Brigitta" is one of the books that ought to be made known to the English public. It abounds in careful and vivid studies of mediæval Rome, set against earlier descriptions of wintry life in Sweden.

Magistrarne i Österås. By Oscar Levertin. Stockholm: Albert Bonnier. 1900. Kr. 2.50.

Another instance of the tendency to take up historic and romantic themes so noticeable in Sweden, as elsewhere, of late years, and represented more or less successfully, by Strindberg, Selma Lagerlöf, Per Hallström, Axel Lundegård, Tor Hedberg, and others. Of these earlier works, Herr Hallström's "Grefven af Antwerpen" has the most of lyrical charm, Selma Lagerlöf's "Drottningar i Kungahälla" is the best done and most convincing. Like Miss Fiona Macleod's short stories from the borderland of heathendom and Christianity of which they remind one, these stories from the same heroic period in Sweden seem more like a continuation than an imitation of the old heroic literature. They are great favourites among young folks in Sweden, and are earnestly recommended to the notice of translators. Most of the others seem more the outcome of a passing phase of fashion than of a deep-felt impulse from within. Whatever qualities they have to recommend them seem to be there despite of the theme chosen, rather than because of it. There is careful workmanship, of course; that belongs to the phase or fashion everywhere; and is not that one reason why one is beginning to grumble and chafe ungratefully? This "Magistrarne i Österås" is on an entirely different plan. A book full of the invaluable, indefinable something which architects call "quality." There is good construction, too, and a most workmanlike plan. Österås is the transparent pseudonym chosen for Eskilstuna, the charming little cathedral town on the Mälars Lake, rich in historic and romantic associations. These are briefly put before one first, in a series of characteristic episodes from different times. There is the birth of the heathen child and its acknowledgment by its father, who testifies to this by cutting the holy solar circle into the rock above the well, that had sprung up the day the child was born, the father being then absent. Then the story of the miraculous re-birth of the well, when the disciples passed by, bearing the martyred body of Saint Eskil. Then other legends or episodes from the monastic period, and from the Reformation, and a very amusing picture of sunlit eighteenth-century conviviality, when the anacreontic poet Bellman was brought home, after seven bottles of long-necked Rhenish, by the Worshipful Mayor and much-respected member of the Diet to visit his small principality. Lastly, there is the advent of modernism when the railway was officially inaugurated by Charles XV., whose jovial reign and debonaire personality are already becoming legendary in Sweden. This is all given with delightful touches, bringing up before us the typical formalism of the age of the crinoline, the provincial flutter, and the provincial stagnation of one of these little towns, so unlike anything known in England, with their wide streets, paved with cobblestones and lined with old-fashioned wooden houses, abutting directly on the street. The gardens are carefully hidden away out of sight behind the house or high boardings, painted drab. The houses ought to be white or yellow if aristocratic, deep red if homely; they were in Bellman's time; they are now more generally a nondescript brown. Shade is offered by the old elms or lindens of the churchyard. The cathedral itself typifies Sweden. The Gothic charm of the nave, built in honour of Saint Eskil, is chilled and corrected by the Protestant sobriety of the wide square choir. But the most important building in one of these little towns is always the town house. It is generally distressingly new, standing as it does for progress and prosperity and proper civic pride, and shelters under one roof town hall, assembly rooms, their necessary adjunct (in Sweden), the restaurant and café—"Stadskällaren"—and their corollary, "Stadshotellet." The Magistrat (schoolmasters) of Mr. Levertin's book may be divided into two classes, those who spend their evenings at the café, and those who do not. Those who do not are Mårten Frank, the stern old Protestant pedagogue, headmaster of the State school or gymnasium associated with all cathedral towns in Sweden, Ragnar Gylling, the keen, absorbed student and scholar, who spends his evenings over his great work on the Vikings in Byzantium. One or two exquisite pages are devoted to his midnight communings with his muse, who for him takes the mocking, haunting figure of Theodora. The masters who spend their evenings at the café-club represent the opposite side of the Swedish temperament, so little known outside Sweden—the conviviality and love of pleasure, the weak lyrical strain, the aimless drifting, that has wrecked so many lives and built so many cafés. The slight story in the book—which is really a study of the evolution of certain types, given certain well-defined conditions—tells the life-history of one of these types. Erland Stråle is a cosmopolitan young Swede, who after a brilliant University career and several years abroad, returns

to the widowed mother, and blonde little sweetheart who are awaiting him, but promptly proceeds to fall in love with a kindred spirit, a famous singer who had married a wealthy nobleman in a fit of ennui, and is on the point of running away to join her abroad, when the mother intervenes, and saves him to his little sweetheart and life in the backwater. The others are depicted such as life and backwater have made them—simply sketched in, one by one, without any attempt at elaborate plot-weaving that would spoil the quiet, underlying pathos of the theme. There is plenty of well-observed and witty conversation, never allowed to become too clever, and plenty of Swedish scenery, never allowed to obtrude. The value of the book is greatly enhanced by the excellent little vignettes, by Nils Kreuger, of Eskilstuna and the Lake at all times and seasons of the year, of the quaint hump-backed roofs and old-fashioned interiors of this typical little town.

Strödda Skizzer och Berättelser. By Harald Molander. Stockholm: Bonnier. 1901. Kr. 3.50.

Of these posthumous sketches and stories there is only one that calls for notice. But that one is a pearl of careful observation, kindly in humour, and most excellent in local colour. It is hard to describe or define. The very title is untranslatable and rich in humorous association to all who know Stockholm. Farbror Kuno Ottokar means literally only "Uncle Kuno Ottokar." But the title of Farbror is in Sweden given to all middle-aged or elderly gentlemen with whom one is on terms of respectful intimacy; and a "Farbror" is a type, a bachelor uncle, or back-seat-in-life kind of person. Thus a Dickens type, sketched with a good deal of Dickens flavour, and with a superadded truth of Stockholm atmosphere that brings the whole place before one vividly. The very names chosen—real names, not made-up ones—are descriptive and inimitable.

Före Gifternalet. By Ola Hansson. Stockholm: Bonnier. 1901. Kr. 2.75.

Another instance of careful and humorous observation of phases of life, produced by Sweden alone. Not so good as the preceding one, in one way. "Farbror Kuno Ottokar" will assuredly be translated one day, as travel in Sweden increases, and people want to read stories and sketches that tell them something about aspects of real life there, unperceived by the tourist—as they want to read about Berlin and Russia, Northern Italy and Sicily. Molander's little sketch has this in common with some of the best pages of Julius Stinde, of Fogazzaro and Verga, to take some names at random, that it carries its own convincing atmosphere along with it. Herr Ola Hansson's amusing portraiture of University life in the little town of Lund can only be appreciated, we fancy, by the initiated. Swedish University life has no plums in the way of fellowships, but little, if any, incidental coaching, and but few of the unsalaried appointments that open the way to private lessons. So that wicked and immoral type (according to Mr. Gorst in "The Monthly Review") the Don, does not thrive or even grow in Sweden. On the other hand there is no tutorial system and no restraint; there is, instead, the tradition of a high-strung life of song, good-fellowship, and golden, glorious youth. Very little remains now but the tradition. That there is good work done by serious people at the Swedish Universities, as there is among the wicked and immoral Dons of the English colleges, may perhaps be suggested in passing. These circumstances combined have produced the type of the "belated student," some of these have graduated, others have not, some are sinking, others managing to keep afloat, somehow, on the troubled seas of renewed bills. It is among types of this kind that Herr Ola Hansson has found his theme.

Thanatos. By Per Hallström. Stockholm: Gernandt. Kr. 3.50.

Another instance, in an entirely different direction, of the present high-water mark of Swedish literature. "Thanatos," too subtle and exquisite for compressed analysis, is a delicate and original piece of work, such as is only possible, after all, when there is a real thriving of the literary art—and not only the desperate beating against the bars of indifference and artistic isolation.

Boken om Lillebror. By Gustaf von Geijerstam. Stockholm: Gernandt. 1900. Kr. 3.50.

Herr von Geijerstam enjoys the unique distinction of having kept his hands off all historic themes, whether Swedish or foreign. He began as an uncompromising realist showing great honesty and courage of observation and workmanship, but otherwise more industry and dogged perseverance than literary talent. Life and study have deepened his outlook, workmanship and sincerity have immensely improved his style. If he has not discovered the Italian Renaissance, he has discovered something more to the purpose and that is his own strong domestic affections. Perhaps Carl Larsson the painter has influenced him. It is at least possible that there is more interaction among the arts than is generally understood. Carl Larsson counts for more than most people as an influence in Sweden just now through the sap and vigour of all his production, his unique personality, and the spontaneous fun and tenderness and originality with which he depicts his own large and ever-growing family. "Boken om Lillebror" is not, (Continued on page 680.)

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however, a mere page torn from the author's real or supposed "journal intime." It is a real story, told with a great deal of charm and pathos, of married life and child life.

Barnets Arhundra. By Ellen Key. Stockholm: Bonnier. 1900. Kr. 6.

This book does not give a full idea of the powers of the remarkable woman who visited England last year. Indeed, none of her books do, taken alone. That is the first thing one notices—her great and in some respects splendid unevenness. One can point to admirable pages and passages, to unique little essays, to glimpses of marvellous comprehension, to pages of thrilling eloquence, to books that quondam are instinct with life and penetrative insight, to other qualities that would make her the first woman writer in Europe—leaving aside creative and imaginative work, which rules out Fiona Macleod and Selma Lagerlöf. But she never does pull herself together. Is it that she is a woman, and therefore, according to men, incapable of "style"? Arvède Barine is a woman too, and few men can beat her in style, while her point of view and manner of work remain essentially womanly. But then Arvède Barine is French and has chosen to remain an essayist; Ellen Key is Swedish, one of the enthusiastic Swedes, not one of the critical Swedes. Is it that she is a prophetess? More likely. Like all prophets, she cares more for the stimulus given, the effect obtained than for mere perfection of workmanship. In common with all prophets, too, especially of the female sex, her message is often weakened by side issues, and marred by redundancy, and the parts of her work that will live and be studied by future students from the Far East, as we now study the typical productions of the Mediterranean period, are those where a strong concrete impression of visible beauty—especially of natural beauty—have burnt away all that is unessential. The volume before us is typical. The subject was one eminently suited to her powers. Her love of little children is the deepest note in her great womanly personality; she is an experienced teacher, a witty satirist, a keen student of theories and method, an independent and original thinker, and a warm, strong, hopeful optimist who loves to peer forward into a golden age. "The Child's Century" might have given us all this in a concrete form. While the book was still in the press, however, she visited England, saw what was being done and fought for here, and incorporated all this into added chapters, thus deliberately spoiling the artistic unity of her book. As she explains in the preface, she does not mind; her object is to be of use.

Den Jydske Hede. Skildringer af Mylius-Erichsen. Tegninger af Valdemar Neieend. Copenhagen: Gyldendalske Boghandels Forlag.

The harvest of Danish and Norwegian books has been meagre; but this first instalment of a large work on the moor-plain (*Heide*) of Jutland will serve as an excellent text for a few remarks on the difference in the respective temperaments of the three nationalities—a difference which no student should neglect to observe who wishes to gain a true estimate of Northern literature. The Swedes either take themselves very seriously, or do not take themselves seriously enough, have a classical vein of slightly vinous humour—generally described by the well-worn cliché of "rose-hued melancholy." They are full of contrasts and incongruities, enthusiastic and critical, advanced socialists and disdainful aristocrats—and much more besides. They strike the Norwegians as old, effete, the Danes as stuck-up and critical. The Norwegians are "young" turbulent, aggressive; their sunlight is stronger than in Sweden, their gloom darker, their imagination more powerful, their humour more sardonic, their laughter louder. There are no incongruities in Norway, only unmitigated contrasts, side by side, and tremendous artistic power in all directions. To the Danes alone is given a happy lightness of touch and perfect ease of manner, otherwise not met with outside Paris, Florence and Vienna—and there more in art than in literature. When this is combined with great natural gifts, irrespective of race or clime or period, and a happy knack of assimilation of the best tendencies of the age, we get a Dr. Georg Brandes, or that Prince Charming of art critics—now alas! dead—Julius Lange. The book before us is a case in point. It is a relief to turn from certain Swedish pages to this description, overflowing with true Stevensonian enjoyment of the humours of the road and the sunlight flooding the roads that traverse the wild flat plains of "Jylland." If it is less perfect than our lost R. L. S., it is more spontaneous—and really more witty. The illustrations are executed in the same spirit, the pages seem all alive with sunlight and fun. This is only the introduction to a serious study of the history of the moor, of the artists and poets of the moor, the types of dwelling and of people on the moor. It will not be that indigestible and estimable thing a local history—it will be the history of a locality which is an entirely different thing, a real branch of social history, which none write better than the Danes just now. Mejborg's "Slesvigske Bondergaarde," Trøls Lund's "Livet i Norden," have set an example, which is not surpassed anywhere, in combining thorough and original research with the most perfect ease and freedom and charm of manner.

For This Week's Books see page 682.

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THE ordinary general meeting of the shareholders in the City and West-End Properties, Limited, was held on Tuesday at the Holborn Restaurant, High Holborn, W.C., Sir A. F. Godson, M.P. (the Chairman of the company), presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. H. P. Hoare) having read the notice convening the meeting.

The Chairman said: I shall make but very few observations upon this balance sheet. I am very glad indeed to see that our auditors (Messrs. Singleton, Fabian and Co.) have gone a little more fully into the accounts by giving you a special report instead of the merely formal certificate only which we have had in the past. With regard to one point which they make, they say—and truly say—most accurately that £877.5 0 is insured only, out of a total value of our properties amounting to something over £1,000,000—£1,008,994 to be exact. You must remember, however, that in respect of many of these properties the money will come to us before the expiration of the leases, and therefore there will be that money and the remnant of some of the leases to come, which will go to make up the difference to the ordinary shareholders. This will happen at the end of eighty or ninety years. It is only a technical matter, but, inasmuch as it has been mentioned in the auditors' report, I thought it only right to point it out to you. Then we have, as you will see by the fourth paragraph in the report, accumulated to our reserve the sum of £11,041 towards making up any deficiency. According to our arrangements, that fund will be accumulated until we get £100,000, so that the difference between the two will really be next to nothing. Then there is one other point which our auditors make, and that is with regard to the value of the investments. You will remember that last year at the annual meeting a strong point was made—or, rather, I ought to say that the point was strongly put—that we had our investments in a certain stock which was not appreciated by at least one gentleman in this room, and we determined, as it looked like being a somewhat personal matter, that, at the first opportunity, we would get rid of that and put our money into what are called gilt-edged securities. Of course, we knew perfectly well that we should lose a certain amount of interest upon them: that we could not help. Anyhow, we have sold out at par, and we have invested the proceeds, as you will see, in Consolidated Stock and some Exchequer bonds. Those are the two points which are very properly alluded to in the auditors' report, and the board have very much pleasure in answering them. The fifth paragraph in the report draws your attention to the fact that the gross revenues of the properties show a satisfactory increase. I can assure you that your directors have had a great amount of trouble, and have taken a great deal of pains, in keeping up the rentals of these properties. Those who have to do with properties such as we are dealing with know perfectly well that there is a sort of ebb-and-flow amongst them. Taking it generally, one way and another, during the period of which we are talking the average unlets are about one-half—or, indeed, I might more accurately say rather less than one-half—the total as set out by the prospectus; so that I think we may fairly say that we have done justice to our shareholders in being able to keep the unlets so materially below what was stated in the prospectus. On the balance-sheet side there is an item of cash in hands of trustees for debenture-holders, being proceeds of sale of Rutland Court. Perhaps the word sale is hardly correct. We could not sell, as it were, so we granted a sub-lease. It was property most difficult for us to deal with, and property which was unremunerative, and the person to whom it might be useful made us an offer which we accepted, and we took £900 for the sub-lease; that is now in the hands of the trustees of the company. The dividend recommended on the ordinary shares is at the rate of 2s. per share, absorbing a sum of £3,030, and, in accordance with the articles of association, a sum of £3,240 is carried to the reserve fund, and a balance of £436 is carried forward to next year. I am glad to say that the dividend is 6d. per share more than was the case last year; that, I think, is a matter of satisfaction to us all. The most serious item that we have to face is the increase in rates and taxes, and also in repairs. I am sorry to say that these are items which we cannot keep down, do what we will. On the repairs alone, as compared with three years ago, we are paying something like 20 per cent. more. The price of materials, I am happy to say, is coming down; but whether wages will drop or not is a question that you can decide as well as I can. I don't know that I have anything more to say; but if there are any questions you would like to ask I shall be very happy to answer them. I beg now to move the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. W. H. Jones seconded the motion.

Colonel Stewart congratulated the directors on having made an advance in the right direction since the last meeting. It was true that the advance was slow; but, on the other hand, he believed that it was sure.

After some further discussion the resolution was put and unanimously agreed to.

The Chairman moved the payment of a dividend of 2s. per share, less income-tax, on the ordinary shares.

Colonel Stewart seconded the motion, which was also put and carried.

Mr. J. Tarry proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman for his presidency, and the motion, having been seconded, was agreed to nem. con.

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THE ordinary annual general meeting of the Consolidated London Properties, Limited, was held on Thursday at the Westminster Palace Hotel, Victoria Street, S.W., Mr. Thomas Boyce (the Chairman) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. George A. White) having read the notice convening the meeting.

The Chairman read the auditors' report. He said: Before formally moving the adoption of the report and balance-sheet, I wish to call attention to a few of the items. First, with regard to the auditors' report. They refer to the fact that the balance of capital over and above the £54,000 provided for by the redemption policies—that is to say, the £100,000 of ordinary share capital—is not provided for otherwise than by the reserve fund. That fund we have by our articles to accumulate and maintain at £40,000, and it would be in the discretion of the board to

increase that amount; but, in addition to it, the ordinary shareholders will get the benefit (and it will be a considerable one) of this fact, that the sums insured for the return of the debenture stock and preference share capital will fall due in some cases a considerable number of years before the expiration of the leases, and for those years they will be receiving the whole income, with no debenture interest or preference dividends to pay, which together amount to over £23,000 per annum. The shareholders are therefore in the position of residuary legatees, and to my mind will have a very good estate to look forward to. Then attention is called to the fact that last year's reserve was not invested at the date of the present balance-sheet, but has been since. This reserve we have put into Two-and-Three-Quarter per Cent. Consols. Under our articles the directors have power to use the reserve fund for certain specific purposes. We did so use it, and invested it at the first favourable opportunity. With regard to the revenue account, you will see that the gross rentals, after providing for bad and doubtful debts, amount to £96,957 8s. 7d. As this is the first balance-sheet for an even twelve months, you cannot compare it with the last, which, you will recollect, was for a period of twenty months; but I am glad to be able to say that it is a satisfactory increase, each quarter of the year having shown an advance on the previous quarter. Taking the other side of the account, you will see that the ground rents, rates, taxes, in-uranc, &c., amount to £56,388. The ground rents are, of course, a fixed amount; but, unfortunately, rates and taxes are not, and for the year under review these items have cost us something like £1,200 more than was being paid at the time of purchase of the properties. Of course, if we increase the revenue, as we have done, we must expect rates and taxes to increase proportionately. We have during this year had the quinquennial assessment, and have had a hard fight in many cases to keep the assessments down to a fair amount, the tendency being, as all property owners know, to put everything up; but, as far as we know of the result, we shall come out very well, and have nothing to complain of. The next item is the cost of up-keep of the properties, &c. This is a heavy item, due to our having spent considerable sums in painting and otherwise up-keeping the structures, and also to a rather abnormal number of changes in our flat tenancies, all requiring redecorating. I think in one large block of flat property alone we have redecorated something like 60 flats in the course of the year, so that you can see that the amount of work is very considerable. Our buildings are now in a good state of repair, and there is now a more settled state of things, so that I think I can fairly say that this item will not be so large next year. The other items speak for themselves. The last item may perhaps require a word; namely, the amount written off "compensation paid on cancellation of leases," £283 13s. 11d. If you look at the assets side of the balance-sheet you will see the item "compensation of cancellation of leases" stands at £13,404 7s. 9d. This is the balance of the cost to us of clearing out flat tenants in two blocks of Princes Mansions, Westminster, and letting on a long lease, on more favourable terms, to the Government; £10,000 of this sum we borrowed on second mortgage, and we are paying it off in 14 yearly instalments of capital and interest. The balance over and above the £10,000 we are writing off also in 14 instalments, and the £283 13s. 11d. referred to is this year's proportion. I do not think there are any other items that call for explanation; but if there are any questions any shareholders would like to ask I shall be pleased to answer them. I now beg to move: "That the report of the directors produced, together with the annexed statement of the company's accounts at March 25, 1901, duly audited, be now received, approved and adopted."

Mr. Wheeler seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The Chairman moved: "That a dividend of 1s. 3d. per share, less income tax, be now declared out of the net profits of the undertaking for the twelve months ended March 25, 1901, upon the ordinary share capital."

The motion was seconded by Mr. W. H. Jones, and carried.

Mr. Bartlett proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman, and, in doing so, said he considered that the report of the company was satisfactory under the circumstances, but it was still more satisfactory that they had a promise from the Chairman that they might expect better results in the current year.

The motion, seconded by Mr. Wheeler, was agreed to, and the Chairman having briefly acknowledged the compliment, the proceedings terminated.

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The Secretary (Mr. J. H. King) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors.

The Chairman, rising to move "that the report and statement of accounts for the year ended December 31, 1900, be adopted," said: It will be seen that after the payment of the dividend on the preference issue, and the interim dividend paid in November last, there is a balance of £3,096. In view, however, of the new developments of the business undertaken by your directors, they deem it advisable not to distribute any further dividend on the ordinary shares for last year, but to place the sum of £2,500 to the reserve fund, which will then stand at £12,000, and bring forward the balance of £596 17s. 6d. From the decision of your directors not to distribute a further dividend on the ordinary shares, it must not for one moment be inferred that the position of the business has in any way depreciated during the past twelve months. Our gross profit and the percentage of profit on the turnover of the business have been more than fully maintained, the diminution in the net profits of the company being entirely due to extraordinary, and not ordinary, expenditure, this extraordinary expenditure being necessary to carry through the policy of expansion which was determined upon by your directors about two years ago. In old-established businesses like our own there is a great tendency to leave well alone, until one fine day, through competition and other causes, one is awakened to the fact that the business is gradually slipping away. To obviate such a condition occurring in our business, you will remember your directors decided to initiate the forward policy now being adopted to meet the up-to-date conditions of trade. By the reorganisation of our foreign agencies we are seeking "fresh fields and pastures new" in order to largely increase the sale of the company's products. At the same time, we have instituted the research laboratory with a view of discovering more economical processes of manufacture, and also to enable us to place new articles for sale upon the market. This policy is the only sound one. It may take longer to reap beneficial results than perhaps may have been foreseen; but this will only affect the pockets of the ordinary shareholders, which practically means only the pockets of your directors. The Moscow branch, to which allusion has been made in the report, was opened and

completely organised during the past year, and is now in full swing. The trading returns so far are satisfactory.

Mr. Robert Wigram, in seconding the motion, said that the cause of the diminution of the net profits was, shortly speaking, that the money had been laid out in anticipation of a future increase of business.

Mr. Alfred W. Bush, speaking as one of the managing directors, said that, although he quite agreed with the figures of the balance-sheet, he did not think that those figures represented in altogether its truest light the position of the company. The sales had been maintained, and within a few hundred pounds reached the figure of the year 1899, which was a record year. Amongst the company's clientele there were many who consumed products which were practically only made by the German, French, and Swiss houses. In order to get part of that trade the company had found it necessary to engage chemists of high standing and great ability to devote their attention to and make researches in this particular branch. Having taken a leaf out of the foreign competitors' book, the company had now a staff of chemists which, he thought he could say without boasting, was second to none in this country. That staff cost the company upwards of £5,000 per annum in salaries alone, to say nothing of the cost of materials and apparatus. The result of that laboratory was that the company was fitting up machinery and plant for the manufacture of certain synthetic and other products which at present was solely in the hands of the foreign competitors. Furthermore, within the course of three or four weeks the company would place upon the market an insecticide and disinfectant which, he understood, was one of the strongest in existence. This would not only prove remunerative to the company, but would also be a benefit to agriculture, horticulture, and several other industries. All that had been paid for by the ordinary shareholders sinking their dividend.

The resolution was then put and carried unanimously.

On the motion of Mr. R. Wigram, seconded by Mr. A. W. Bush, the retiring director (Sir George Hayter Chubb, Bart.) was re-elected.

Sir George Chubb, in thanking the shareholders for his re-election, said that he was convinced of the company's soundness and prosperity. There was no element of speculation in it.

MOUNT YAGAHONG EXPLORATION, LTD.

THE third ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the Mount Yagahong Exploration Company, Limited, was held on Monday, at the Guildhall Tavern, Gr-sham Street, E.C., under the presidency of Mr. John Newmarch (the chairman of the company).

The Secretary (Mr. Edward J. Townsend) having read the notice convening the meeting.

The Chairman said: The difficulties under which we have been working during the past year have been pretty fully explained in the reports issued from time to time. Last year at our meeting we were delighted to receive a cable informing us that heavy rains were falling; but it is sometimes possible to have too much of a good thing, and rains lasting nearly six months, amounting to 14 in. during the last two months, converted this country, which is without natural drainage or water-courses, into an inland sea. If the railway to Nannine had been constructed—as it would have been long since had the promises we have received from time to time been fulfilled—the drought and flood would have affected us very little, as coal would have competed with firewood, and we should have had no trouble in keeping our pumps working. The railway has now, however, advanced beyond the stage of promises; for the scheme has been duly authorised by an Act passed in the last session of the West Australian Parliament, and the funds were voted for the construction of the section from Cue to Tuckanarra, which is 25 miles from our headquarters, and the cost of the section from Tuckanarra is to be voted in June. We are told that the whole of the rails are ordered and the earthworks are under construction, and we should certainly be able to use the line before the close of the current year. As we have several resolutions to consider to-day, I do not propose to occupy more of your time. No doubt there are points which shareholders will desire to discuss and questions which they will wish to have answered, and, so far as the interests of the company will permit, we shall be pleased to furnish any information that may be desired. I now beg to move the adoption of the directors' report and statement of accounts for the period ended December 31, 1900.

Mr. Edward Bedford seconded the motion.

Dr. A. Ross pointed out several things in the report which it was very difficult to understand.

Mr. Cribb remarked that those who had followed the history of this company must know that the directors had had to pass through great difficulties during the past twelve months. He thought they, as shareholders, should have patience with the directors, who, he believed, would carry them through.

Mr. Macer (the managing director) then made a long and exhaustive statement as to the company's affairs and concluded: Now, the question put by shareholders with great frequency is, When will you pay a dividend? I think that, considering the time of stress through which we have come during last year, the great care we have had to exercise in keeping our properties financed, and the great cost we are put to in working our properties and extracting our gold from the ore, we are very fortunate indeed in being able to bring before you a balance-sheet showing a profit. The profit would have justified a dividend of 6d. a share. Dr. Ross has said that we have not the money with which to pay it; but we should not be such fools as to declare it unless we had. We have, however, consulted several large shareholders and taken the opinion of the market—which opinion is a pretty sound one generally, as to whether we should pay a sixpenny dividend or wait until the Star of the East 350-foot level is in another 100 feet, and wait until we have done more work on Abbots. The opinion of the market is that we should wait, and they think that the declaration of a sixpenny dividend would bring about a fall rather than a rise in the price of the shares. As to the issue of capital, we have never issued shares under par, and at the reconstruction of the company the 15. 6d. at which the shares were valued was a fair price. They are valued to-day at 7s. or 8s., and I consider that that is a very low price. After taking in the Nannine Consolidated we shall have issued 400,000 shares, and have 50,000 shares in reserve, and shall not issue them unless we find an opportunity of obtaining value for them. We are advised by Messrs. Ogle to acquire one or two leases adjacent to our properties, and it may be that we shall use a portion of the shares to acquire them; but we should like you to give us a free hand in the disposal of this capital.

Dr. Ross brought forward an amendment for the adjournment of the meeting and the appointment of a committee of investigation; but this did not find a seconder, and the proposal fell through.

The motion for the adoption of the report and accounts was then put and agreed to with three dissentients.

Mr. Macer then proposed: "That, in accordance with Clause 35 of the com-

pany's articles of association, it is resolved that the capital of the company be increased by the creation of 100,000 new shares of 10s. each, to be issued as and when the directors think expedient."

Mr. H. B. M. Watson seconded the motion, which was then put and agreed to. Mr. Chambers moved a vote of thanks to the directors, and specially complimented Mr. Macer on the statement he had made concerning the company's affairs. The services of the mine manager (Mr. Whillas) were also warmly recognised. The vote was unanimously accorded.

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1900-1901.

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ROSE DEEP, LIMITED.

CAPITAL

£425,000

In 425,000 Shares of £1 each, all issued.

INTERIM REPORT

For the 12 Months ending 31st March, 1901.

Directorate.

G. ROULIOT (Chairman).

J. S. CURTIS (alternate J. E. SHARP).

H. DUVAL

H. A. ROGERS (alternate W. H. ROGERS).

E. BIRKENRUTH.

F. ECKSTEIN (alternate R. W. SCHUMACHER).

General Manager

Manager at Mine

Secretary

London Secretary

G. E. WEBBER.

W. LAURIE HAMILTON.

F. RALEIGH.

A. MOIR.

Head Office

London Office

Paris Correspondents

ECKSTEIN'S BUILDINGS, JOHANNESBURG, THE TRANSVAAL.

120 BISHOPSGATE STREET WITHIN, E.C.

COMPAGNIE FRANÇAISE DE MINES D'OR ET D'EXPLORATION,
20 RUE TAITBOUT.

INTERIM REPORT OF DIRECTORS for the 12 Months ending 31st March, 1901.

To the Shareholders,

GENTLEMEN,—The Seventh Annual General Meeting of Shareholders, which under ordinary circumstances would have been held to consider the Directors' Report and Accounts for the financial year ending 31st December, 1900, could not be convened owing to the war in South Africa.

Since the date of your Directors' last Report, which was for the fifteen months ending 31st March, 1900, the British forces have occupied Johannesburg and District. Hostilities are still being carried on in the Transvaal and Orange River Colony, but your Directors have been able to establish communication with the Mine, and have gradually been able to arrange for the carrying out of Pumping and other necessary work.

The value of Gold which was previously reported to have been seized by the late South African Republic has not yet been recovered. Every effort is being made to obtain same from the Insurance Company with whom the Gold was insured.

On the British occupation in June, 1900, it was found that the Government of the late South African Republic had been working the Company's Mine since the latter part of November, 1899.

The General Manager's Report, attached hereto, gives full information regarding the present condition of the property, and some particulars of the late Government's working of the Mine. It will be seen that Gold to the estimated value of £168,000 was obtained by the late Government. No portion of this sum has been recovered by the Company, but Gold to the value of £20,475 was recovered from the clean up of the late Government's last month's operations, against which a payment for Wages, &c., had to be made, amounting to £5,963 3s. 6d. The Report shows further that the Mine and Plant, whilst not being in first-class condition, are in readiness for resuming Milling operations at comparatively short notice when the necessary labour and supplies are obtainable.

With regard to the Railway Siding referred to in the General Manager's Report, which is intended to be used principally for supplying the Mine with coal in bulk, your Directors decided to authorise the expenditure in consequence of the economy which would thereby be effected.

Regarding the Company's financial position, your Directors are not able to submit a Balance Sheet, as the Company's Books cannot be completed until the necessary

Staff is allowed to return to the Mine. The Company's position is estimated as follows:—

| | | |
|--|---|-------------|
| Estimated Net Cash and Cash Assets on hand at December 31st, 1899, when including in the Cash Assets the value of Gold seized by the late South African Republic (£30,450) .. | £ | s. d. |
| Less Expenditure for fifteen months ending March 31st, 1901, for Salaries (including Pay Allowance to Staff during the war), Licences, Fire Insurance, Sundry General Expenditure, Mine Expenditure, Mine Guards, &c. .. | £ | 20,000 0 0 |
| Less Approximate value of Stores commandeered by late South African Republic .. | £ | 15,000 0 0 |
| | | 44,000 0 0 |
| Add net value of Gold recovered from late Government's last clean up .. | | 14,566 16 6 |
| Estimated Net Cash and Cash Assets .. | £ | 61,063 10 3 |

In January, 1901, the Commander-in-Chief of the British Forces granted permission to the Mining Companies to send fifteen men per Mine, or a total force of 1,500 men, from the Coast, to act as Mine Guards for the protection of the Mines in the Witwatersrand District, subject to the various Companies paying the men so enlisted the Military rate of pay drawn by Colonial troops (5s. per man per day) and the cost of rations. In view of the destruction of Mining surface property which had taken place, your Directors decided to avail themselves of the permission so granted, and accordingly enlisted the number of men authorised.

F. ECKSTEIN, Director.

F. RALEIGH, Secretary.

Johannesburg, 1st April, 1901.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT.

The Chairman and Directors, Rose Deep, Limited.

GENTLEMEN,—I beg to hand you the following statement concerning the present condition of your property, and the work done thereon since the Company's suspension of Milling operations on the 7th October, 1899.

The Company's officials left the Mine early in October, 1899, leaving in charge a caretaker, who continued pumping operations until about the middle of November, 1899, when the Government of the South African Republic took possession of the property.

Milling operations were commenced by the Government shortly after taking possession, and continued with an average of 150 stamps to the 28th May, 1900, a period of about six and a quarter months.

No certified record of the results obtained by the Government from their Milling operations has been obtainable, but from memoranda found at the Mine Office, and from other sources, it is estimated that they crushed 114,500 tons of ore, which yielded 44,927 ozs. of Fine Gold. A portion of this Gold, estimated at 4,875 Fine ozs., was recovered at the time of the British occupation by a representative of Messrs. H. Eckstein & Co., from the clean up for the month of May, which the Government officials had been unable to complete. After deducting the Gold so recovered, the value taken by the Government is estimated at £168,000. It is impossible to state what profit was realised by the Government from their Mining operations, as no data are at hand showing their complete working costs.

In the interval extending from the time of the late Government ceasing operations to the return of Mr. W. Laurie Hamilton, the Company's Manager, on the 14th October, 1900, the property was in charge of a caretaker, and the Mine kept free from water.

The Manager reported having found the general Plant and Mine workings in the following state:—On the surface the main boiler plant was in a most dangerous condition, nearly every boiler requiring either re-tubing or patching; the Mill, Crusher Station, and other important parts of the plant also showed great lack of upkeep whilst being operated by the Government. In the Mine not only were the best

stopes worked to their fullest extent, but the work generally was done in a manner most detrimental to the best interests of the Mine. Very little development work was done, and all of the stopes were worked without any regard for present safety or future working. No safety pillars were left except those in process of forming by the Company at the time of its suspending work. No. 3 Shaft Incline was allowed to get into a bad state, and the timbering in consequence suffered to a considerable extent.

Since the return of the Manager the Mine has been kept dry, and the two Main Shafts and their inclines put in order, and the accumulation of debris removed from the workings and thoroughfares. Most of the more important repairs to the surface machinery have also been made, and the general plant overhauled as far as the limited labour force and existing conditions would permit.

The grading for a railway siding into the property has recently been completed, and the line put in readiness for ballasting and laying the rails. This siding is part of a general system intended for serving the group of Mines comprising this Company, Glen Deep, Limited, May Consolidated Gold Mining Co., the New Primrose Gold Mining Co., with coal in bulk direct to the various boiler stations on these properties. As this means of handling coal will do away with the former expensive bagging system and trolley transport, it is anticipated that a material saving will be effected to this Company in the future cost of its fuel.

From the foregoing it will be seen that the Machinery and Plant are not quite up to their former state of efficiency, but it is considered that they could be put in readiness for resuming Milling operations at a few weeks' notice.

The Mine condition is also such that work could be resumed underground at short notice, although possibly at first the yield may not be of normal grade owing to the present state of the stopes and development work.

I beg to remain, Gentlemen, yours faithfully,

G. E. WEBBER, General Manager.

Johannesburg, 31st March, 1901.

CROWN DEEP, LIMITED.

CAPITAL - - - - - £300,000

In 300,000 Shares of £1 each, all issued.

INTERIM REPORT

For the 12 Months ending 31st March, 1901.

Directorate.

F. ECKSTEIN (Chairman).

E. BIRKENRUTH.

G. ROULIOT.

J. P. FITZPATRICK (alternate R. W. SCHUMACHER).

H. A. ROGERS (alternate W. H. ROGERS).

H. DUVAL.

| | | | | | | | | |
|------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------------|
| General Manager | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | G. E. WEBBER. |
| Manager at Mine | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | C. J. PRICE. |
| Secretary | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | F. RALEIGH. |
| London Secretary | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | A. MOIR. |

| | | | |
|----------------------|-----|-----|---|
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| London Office | ... | ... | 120 BISHOPSGATE STREET WITHIN, E.C. |
| Paris Correspondents | ... | ... | BANQUE FRANÇAISE DE L'AFRIQUE DU SUD, 9 RUE BOUDREAU. |

INTERIM REPORT OF DIRECTORS for the 12 Months ending 31st March, 1901.

To the Shareholders.

GENTLEMEN,—In consequence of the War in South Africa, the Seventh Annual General Meeting, at which the Directors' Report and Accounts for the Financial Year ending 31st December, 1900, should have been considered, could not be convened.

Your Directors' last Report was for the 15 months ending 31st March, 1900, and since then the British Forces have occupied Johannesburg and District. Hostilities are still being carried on in the Transvaal and Orange River Colony, but your Directors have been able to arrange for the continuation of pumping operations, and the carrying out of other necessary work. The necessary labour and supplies are not, however, available for the resumption of Milling operations.

The value of the Gold which was seized by the late South African Republic has not yet been recovered, but every effort is being made to obtain same from the Insurance Company with whom the Gold was insured. The value seized from the Mail train on 2nd October, 1899, was stated in the last Report as being £16,350; in addition to this a further shipment, valued at £7,350, was also seized a few days later from the Company's Bankers in Johannesburg, which your Directors were not advised of when making their last Report. The total value of Gold so seized, therefore, amounts to £23,700.

The General Manager's Report, attached hereto, gives full information regarding the present condition of the Company's Mine and Plant, and the work done on the property since the suspension of Milling operations. It will be seen that the Underground Workings and Machinery and Plant are in fair condition. The construction of the Railway Siding, referred to by the General Manager, was authorised by your Directors in view of the economy which will thereby be effected.

Regarding the Company's financial position, your Directors are not able to submit a Balance Sheet, as the Company's books cannot be completed until the necessary Staff is allowed to return to the Mine. The following is, however, an estimate of the Company's position at date:—

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Estimated Net Cash and Cash Assets on hand 31st December, 1899, when including in the Cash Assets the value of Gold seized by the late South African Republic (£16,350), as per Report to 31st March, 1900 | £12,350 4 8 |
| Add additional value of Gold now reported as seized | 7,350 0 0 |
| | £19,700 4 8 |

| | | | |
|---|---------|----|----|
| Brought forward | £ | s. | d. |
| | 39,659 | 4 | 8 |
| Less estimated Expenditure for 15 months ending March 31st, 1901, for Salaries (including Pay Allowance to Staff during War), Licences, Fire Insurance, Interest, Sundry General Expenditure, Mine Expenditure for Pumping, Caretaking, &c., and Mine Guards, &c. | £45,700 | 0 | 0 |
| Less calls paid on Robinson Central Deep, Limited, Shares subscribed for | 3,584 | 12 | 0 |
| Less approximate value of Stores commandeered by the late South African Republic | 2,700 | 0 | 0 |
| | 51,984 | 12 | 0 |
| Estimated Net Liabilities after deducting Cash Assets | £12,325 | 7 | 4 |

The Rand Mines, Limited, has advanced the necessary funds required by the Company to carry on its operations, at an interest charge of 7 per cent. per annum.

The Company holds 72,538 £1 Shares in the Robinson Central Deep, Limited, fully paid up, together with a further 35,846 Shares in that Company upon which there is a liability of £20,611 9s. (11s. 6d. per Share), the latter Shares having been subscribed for at £2 per Share.

In January, 1901, the Commander-in-Chief of the British forces granted permission to the Mining Companies to send 15 men per Mine, or a total of 1,500 men, from the Coast, to act as Mine Guards for the protection of the Mines in the Witwatersrand District, subject to the various Companies paying the men so enlisted the Military rate of pay drawn by Colonial troops (5s. per man per day) and the cost of rations. In view of the destruction of Mining Surface Property which had taken place, your Directors decided to avail themselves of the permission so granted, and accordingly enlisted the number of men authorised.

F. ECKSTEIN, Director.
F. RALEIGH, Secretary.

Johannesburg, 1st April, 1901.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT.

The Chairman and Directors, Crown Deep, Limited.

GENTLEMEN,—I beg to hand you the following statement concerning the present condition of the Company's Mine and Plant, and the work done on its property since the suspension of Milling operations on the 5th October, 1899.

The Company's Officials left the Mine on the 10th of October, 1899, leaving the property in charge of a caretaker.

Pumping operations were resumed shortly after the above date, and since then have been continued with more or less regularity. The water in the Mine at the present time is standing near the bottom workings—viz., at the 5th Level in No. 1 Shaft, and at the 6th Level in No. 2 Shaft, at which points it is being held pending the resumption of regular operations.

The underground workings are in very good condition, considering the length of time work has been suspended, and excepting a few necessary repairs to the two Shafts, and renewals, &c., to the Air Mains, all of which will occupy but little time, Mining operations could be resumed almost at once.

The Machinery and Plant on the surface have been well cared for, and, generally speaking, are also in very fair condition.

The position of the Company, therefore, as regards the working condition of its Mine and Plant, may be considered as very satisfactory.

The grading for the Railway Siding or Branch into the Company's property has been started recently, and the line is now nearly in readiness for ballasting and laying down the rails. This Siding is a spur from a system branching off from the main line near by, which is being put in for the group of Mines, comprising this Company, Langlaagte Deep Limited, Langlaagte Estate and G. M. Company Limited, Crown Reef G. M. Company Limited, and Bonanza Limited, for the purpose of delivering coal in bulk direct to the various coal bunkers on these properties. As this means of handling coal will do away with the former expensive bagging system and trolley transport, it is anticipated that a material saving will be effected to this Company in its future cost of fuel.

The Company's Manager, Mr. C. J. Price, has been residing on the property since the latter part of June, 1900, and, although connected with one of the Colonial Corps, has had some opportunity of keeping in touch with the work being done on the mine.

I beg to remain, Gentlemen, yours faithfully,
G. E. WEBBER, General Manager

Johannesburg, 31st March, 1901.

LANGLAAGTE DEEP, LIMITED

CAPITAL - - - - £750,000

In 750,000 Shares of £1 each, of which 650,000 Shares are issued.

INTERIM REPORT

For the 12 Months ending 31st March, 1901.

Directorate.

F. ECKSTEIN, Chairman (alternate R. W. SCHUMACHER).
A. T. SCHMIDT.

H. A. ROGERS.
C. S. GOLDMANN.

J. P. FITZPATRICK (alternate G. ROULIOT).

| | | |
|------------------|-----|-----------------|
| General Manager | ... | G. E. WEBBER. |
| Manager at Mine | ... | WAGER BRADFORD. |
| Secretary | ... | F. RALEIGH. |
| London Secretary | ... | A. MOIR. |

| | | |
|---------------|-----|--|
| Head Office | ... | ECKSTEIN'S BUILDINGS, JOHANNESBURG, THE TRANSVAAL. |
| London Office | ... | 120 BISHOPSGATE STREET WITHIN, E.C. |
| Paris Office | ... | 9 RUE BOUDREAU. |

INTERIM REPORT OF DIRECTORS for the 12 Months ending 31st March, 1901.

To the Shareholders,
GENTLEMEN,—Your Directors' last report was for the eight months ending 31st March, 1900. Owing to the continuation of the War in South Africa, the Fifth Annual General Meeting of Shareholders, at which your Directors' Report and Accounts for the financial year ending 31st July, 1900, should have been presented, could not be convened.

The British Army occupied Johannesburg and District in June, 1900, and since then your Directors have established communication with the Mine, and have been able to arrange for the continuation of Pumping and the carrying on of other necessary work. Hostilities are still being conducted in the Transvaal and Orange River Colony, and in consequence the necessary labour and supplies are not available for the resumption of Milling operations.

The value of Gold which was previously reported as having been seized by the late South African Republic has not yet been recovered. Every effort is being made to obtain same from the Insurance Company with whom the Gold was insured.

The General Manager's Report attached hereto gives full information regarding the present condition of the property and work done since the suspension of Milling operations to date. It will be seen that the Milling operations were carried on from the Surface Dumps for a period of five and a half months between the time of the Company suspending operations and the British occupation. This resumption of Milling was the outcome of an agreement arrived at between the Company's Official in charge of the property and the Government of the late South African Republic, as an alternative against the latter's demand for the Company to suspend its Pumping operations and for possession of its Ore Dumps for Milling purposes, thus retaining for the Company the control of its property and the continuation of its Pumping operations. It was arranged that the Company was to bear the cost of such Milling, against which the late Government agreed to return 20 per cent. of the Gold won to meet the expenses. It will further be seen that Gold to the value of £45,000 was obtained from this Milling, of which amount £12,000 was recovered, making the net value taken by the Government amount to £33,000; against this sum the Company received £5,572 1s. 5d. from the Government on account of the 20 per cent. agreed upon.

The Report shows further that the Machinery and Plant have been well cared for, that the water in the Mine is at normal level, and that Mine workings could be resumed almost at once.

With regard to the Railway Siding referred to in the General Manager's Report, which is intended to be used principally for supplying the Mine with coal in bulk, your Directors decided to authorise the expenditure in view of the great economy which will be thus effected.

Regarding the Company's financial position your Directors are not able to submit a Balance Sheet, as the Company's books cannot be completed until the necessary Staff is allowed to return to the Mine. The Company's position is estimated to be as follows:—

| | | |
|---|----------|-------|
| Estimated Net Liabilities as at 31st December, 1899, after deducting Cash and Cash Assets, including the value of Gold seized by the late South African Republic (£19,950) .. | £ | s. d. |
| | 495,566 | 18 6 |
| Add Estimated Expenditure for 15 months ending March 31st, 1901, for Salaries (including Pay Allowance to Staff during War), Licences, Fire Insurance, Sundry General Expenditure, Mine Expenditure for Pumping, Caretaking, &c., Mine Guards and Milling Expenses after deducting the Gold recovered and Cash received from the late Government .. | £32,300 | 0 0 |
| Add Interest on Advances received from Rand Mines, Limited .. | 48,356 | 0 7 |
| Add Estimated value of Stores commandeered by the late South African Republic .. | 3,100 | 0 0 |
| | 83,756 | 0 7 |
| Estimated Net Liabilities, after deducting Cash Assets .. | £579,322 | 19 1 |

The Rand Mines, Limited, has continued to advance the necessary funds required by the Company to carry on its operations at an interest charge of 7 per cent. per annum.

In January, 1901, the Commander-in-Chief of the British Forces granted permission to the Mining Companies to send fifteen men per Mine, or a total force of 1,500 men, from the Coast, to act as Mine Guards for the protection of the Mines in the Witwatersrand District, subject to the various Companies paying the men so enlisted the military rate of pay drawn by Colonial troops (5s. per man per day) and the cost of rations. In view of the destruction of Mining Surface Property which had taken place, your Directors decided to avail themselves of the permission so granted, and accordingly enlisted the number of men authorised.

F. ECKSTEIN, Director.
F. RALEIGH, Secretary.

Johannesburg, 1st April, 1901.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT.

The Chairman and Directors, Langlaagte Deep, Limited.

GENTLEMEN,—I beg to hand you the following statement concerning the present condition of the Company's Mine and Plant, and the work done on its property since the suspension of Milling operations on the 10th October, 1899.

The Company's Officials left the Mine about 12th October, 1899, leaving the property in charge of a caretaker.

The Government of the late South African Republic caused Milling to be recommenced on the 8th of December, 1899, from the ore in the Surface Dumps, accumulated during the Company's development stage, and continued same with an average of 75 Stamps to the 25th of May, 1900—a period of about 5½ months.

No Mining operations were attempted by the Government.

The records show that during the Government operations an aggregate of 46,173 tons were crushed, which yielded 10,720 ozs. of Fine Gold, valued at about £45,000; of this sum Gold to the value of about £12,000 was recovered on account of the Company at the time of the British occupation by a representative of Messrs. H. Eckstein & Co., from the clean up for the month of May. It is not possible to state what profit was realised by the late Government from their Milling operations, as no data are at hand showing their complete working costs.

The Machinery and Plant were well cared for during the time Milling was in operation, and at the present time are in good running order. The Mine has been kept free from water down to the fifth Level, at which point it is being held pending

the resumption of regular operations. The underground workings have sustained no damage from their long idleness, and could be put in readiness for resuming work almost at once.

The position of the Company, therefore, as regards the working condition of its Mine and Plant, is most satisfactory.

The grading for a Railway Siding or Branch into the Company's property has been started recently, and the line is now nearly in readiness for ballasting and laying down the rails. This Siding is a spur from a system branching off from the main line near by, which is being put in for the group of Mines comprising this Company, Langlaagte Estate and Gold Mining Company, Limited, Crown Reef Gold Mining Company, Limited, Crown Deep, Limited, and Bonanza, Limited, for the purpose of delivering coal in bulk direct to the various coal bunkers on these properties. As this means of handling coal will do away with the former expensive bagging system and trolley transport, it is anticipated that a material saving will be effected to this Company in its future cost of fuel.

The Company's Manager, Mr. Wager Bradford, returned to the property on the 14th September, 1900, since which time operations at the Mine have been under his control.

I beg to remain, Gentlemen, yours faithfully,
G. E. WEBBER, General Manager.

Johannesburg, 31st March, 1901.

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* Mr. HENRY SAVAGE LANDOR was present during the whole of the recent military operations in China. He was in Tientsin when it was taken, entered Peking with the relieving forces, and was the first European to enter the Forbidden City as a guest by the side of the Russian General. Holding no official position, and bound by no official etiquette, he was perhaps the only eye-witness at liberty to report the whole of what he saw. Mr. Landor's knowledge of the German, French, Italian, Chinese and Japanese languages proved of the greatest value in enabling him to obtain information at first hand. Thanks to a brief abstract of Chinese history, besides a number of curious facts concerning early missionary enterprise in China, the reader can understand, as in no previous account, the true nature and causes which led up to those lamentable events of last year, which are here described in a vivid and deeply interesting manner. The value of this narrative, by an observer who is not obliged to conceal or to palliate anything, is greatly enhanced by accurate maps and many illustrations from photographs and sketches by the Author.

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